

Gandhi denounces Israel

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Monday reaffirmed unconditional support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and denounced Israel for its obduracy and intransigence. Speaking at a banquet in honour of visiting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat (see page 2), Mr. Gandhi went out of his way to dispel recent belief that India might be softening its stance towards Israel. Speculation that a change might be in view had followed India's unexpected decision to allow Israel's Davis Cup tennis team to compete here last month despite a long-time ban on sporting contacts. In his speech Mr. Gandhi warmly welcomed Mr. Arafat as "much more than an honoured guest — you are a brother and a friend." He said the Palestinian problem had not eluded solution for lack of international concern or effort. "It is primarily due to the obduracy of Israel. Israel's intransigence has been encouraged by the external support it receives. It must halt its aggressive and expansionist policies (and) concede the national rights of the Palestinian people." Calling for total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, the Indian leader supported the growing consensus in favour of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Vorontsov in Tehran

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A senior Soviet Foreign Ministry official arrived in Tehran to discuss with Iranian officials the Gulf war and bilateral relations, it was announced Monday. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov, leading a delegation, flew into the Iranian capital Sunday night, said Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia. Tehran Radio, monitored in London, said the visit was at the invitation of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, and Mr. Vorontsov's discussions with Iranian officials are to concern bilateral relations. Iranian broadcasts did not mention that Mr. Vorontsov would discuss the Gulf war. Earlier reports said the official was currently on a tour of Middle Eastern countries to discuss bilateral relations and the Gulf war. Mr. Vorontsov visited Damascus and met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Saturday. He also visited Iraq. Mr. Vorontsov's talks with Iraqi officials centred on the July 20 call by the U.N. Security Council for an immediate ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

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Blast rocks Saudi cultural centre

BEIRUT (R) — A bomb exploded at the closed Saudi Arabian cultural centre in west Beirut on Monday less than 24 hours after dynamite was thrown at the deserted Saudi embassy (see page 2), police said. They said the bomb inside offices of the sixth floor centre overlooking busy Hamra Street shattered most of the building's glass but caused no casualties. The embassy and the cultural centre were both closed in February 1984 at a time of mounting militia violence. The embassy now operates out of Damascus. It was not immediately known who was responsible for the explosion. Pro-Iranian militants have threatened Saudi interests following violence in Mecca last Friday in which a number of Iranian pilgrims died.

W. German defence chief to discuss Gulf in Washington

BONN (AP) — Defence Minister Manfred Woerner on Monday flew to Washington, where he was expected to explain Bonn's refusal to join U.S. military patrols of the Gulf. The Defence Ministry said Mr. Woerner left Monday morning for a meeting with U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger. During the trip, Mr. Woerner is expected to explain Bonn's decision not to send West German ships to assist the U.S. navy in the Gulf, a ministry spokesman said last week. However, spokesman Host Prayon said that Bonn might be willing to take over some of the U.S. navy's NATO commitments in the Mediterranean and Atlantic to free more U.S. ships for the Gulf area or elsewhere.

Iran rebels claim attacks

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iranian opposition Mujahadeen-e-Khalq said Monday its forces killed or wounded 114 Iranian Revolutionary Guards in attacks on nine bases. The Baghdad-based group said in a telex to Reuters that five bases in western Iran were captured on Friday in an initial attack that left 63 guards dead and 51 wounded. More than 1,000 mortar shells fired at four other bases caused unspecified casualties and a Revolutionary Guards battalion sent as reinforcement was forced to retreat, it said. Mujahadeen spokesman Hussein Abidini said on Saturday that opposition fighters had carried out 65 operations against Iranian positions since the beginning of 1987, killing 2,300 troops and capturing 100.

Shevardnadze to address Geneva talks

GENEVA (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will address the 40-nation disarmament conference in Geneva on Thursday, a Soviet spokesman said Monday. Mr. Shevardnadze will arrive in Geneva on Wednesday afternoon and is tentatively scheduled to hold a news conference on Friday, spokesman Vladimir Shebanov told Reuters. Drafting a treaty for a global ban on chemical weapons and outlawing nuclear testing will be two major issues at the conference.

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Haj draws to a close amid Iran's anti-U.S. diatribe over Mecca riot

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — More than a million and a half Muslims prayed for divine guidance on Monday at the climax of a pilgrimage stained by violence that left hundreds dead and triggered Iranian threats against Saudi Arabia and the United States.

In temperatures of 46 degrees Centigrade (115 Fahrenheit), the white-clad pilgrims gathered on Mount Arafat, a hill 25 kilometres from the Holy City of Mecca where violence erupted on Friday during a demonstration by Iranian pilgrims.

In a clear appeal not to mix politics with religion, speakers told the pilgrims, estimated over 1.5 million, they should not let anything interfere with their religious duties.

Saudi Arabia said 402 people, including 275 Iranians, died in Mecca when demonstrators attacked Saudis and pilgrims of other nationalities, forcing security forces to restore order. Iran claimed 600 Iranians were killed or are missing and 4,500 had been injured. It blamed the

United States for ordering what it termed a "massacre."

Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, said Monday the United States had committed a "crime" and would be dealt with at an opportune time, Tehran Radio reported.

Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Sunday Iran would avenge its dead by attacking U.S. forces in the Gulf and toppling the Saudi leadership.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei told a group of navy-men that America yields only to force and would be addressed that way, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Monday.

Ayatollah Khomeini's remarks came in a message to Ho-

jatollah Mahdi Karubi, head of the estimated 155,000-strong Iranian pilgrims to Mecca, Tehran Radio reported.

Ayatollah Khomeini said those killed were the "target of assault and impudence of the mercenaries of the arch-satan, that is the criminal America."

Iran has claimed Saudi police attacked Iranian pilgrims during a demonstration they staged on Friday in response to a call by Ayatollah Khomeini, charging they were shot at, stabbed and beaten to death.

Tehran has contended that the Saudis were acting on behalf of Washington.

Saudi Arabia has denied any shots were fired and blames the clashes on aggression by the Iranians. It has also produced television footage of Friday's riots showing Iranians attacking Saudi policemen and other pilgrims.

Ayatollah Khomeini was quoted as saying: "The Saudi government must rest assured that America has left such a shameful stain on it that it will

(Continued on page 3)

Iran begins naval exercises as Gas Prince clears Hormuz

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Iran held naval manoeuvres in the Strait of Hormuz on Monday and warned all vessels to stay away from its waters, as a Kuwaiti tanker steamed through the mouth of the Gulf escorted by U.S. warships.

Iran says the manoeuvres, code-named "Martyrdom," will demonstrate the readiness of thousands of volunteers to carry out suicide attacks on the U.S. navy.

A communique said Iran was preparing for "possible aggressions by the arch-satan, the world-devouring United States, and her hireling servants in the southern blue waters of Islamic Iran."

The communique was carried by Tehran Radio, which said the exercises also were to commemorate the hundreds of Iranian pilgrims killed in the Saudi Arabian holy city of Mecca last week.

The communique said it "has issued a serious request to all shipping centres and military and civilian aircraft to halt all their air and sea traffic in the regional waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and

Oman Sea for three days starting from 2400 hours tonight (2030 GMT)," Tehran Radio reported.

The Iranian radio said "martyrdom seekers" from Hormuzgan province, on the Iranian side of the Hormuz, had been stationed on islands in the strategic strait.

The radio said the volunteers would be "carrying out defensive land-to-sea operations, implementing advanced military tactics... and preparing for the potential aggression of the enemy."

Senior shipping sources said the 43,604-tonne Gas Prince cleared the Strait of Hormuz at 11:30 a.m. escorted by three U.S. warships.

The Gas Prince, carrying 40,000 tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas for Japan, became the first reflagged Kuwaiti tanker to complete a round-trip through the Gulf under a U.S. scheme violently opposed by Iran to protect Kuwaiti shipping.

The U.S. commander in the Gulf, Rear Admiral Harold Bensen, said Sunday night the missiles were a "serious threat" although not the threat most likely to be carried out.

Reporters saw the Gas Prince flying the U.S. flag, led by the frigate Crommelin with the cruiser Fox to its right and the guided missile destroyer Kidd bringing up the rear.

Adm. Bensen told reporters the warships were on high alert but there had been no alarms or unusual incidents.

The Iranian navy, operating from Bandar Abbas, frequently patrols the strait to check ships that may be carrying weapons for Iraq.

Washington has vowed to respond decisively to any attack. It has a 15-ship fleet stationed in and around the Gulf with some of the navy's most powerful artillery.

Forty kilometres wide at its narrowest point, the strait curves sharply around Oman's Musandam peninsula past Iran's heavily defended Larak Island into the Arabian Sea.

Iran has never struck shipping in the strait itself but has launched helicopter and gunboat attacks on scores of ships in the southern Gulf, many of them

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Oil prices surge

LONDON (R) — World oil prices surged to almost \$21 a barrel Monday on market fears the deaths of Iranian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia could usher in a new and more dangerous phase of the Gulf war.

"We're worried about war, total war," said one international trader.

Britain's North Sea Brent crude oil, considered a free market benchmark price, climbed about \$1 a barrel from late Friday levels and traded at \$20.95 for September delivery.

Oil traders were concerned that the deaths of the Iranian pilgrims would lead to retaliatory action by Iran and disruptions of Middle East oil supplies.

Some traders feared there may be attacks on Kuwaiti ships sailing under U.S. flags and their escorts in the Gulf. Others worried that Saudi Arabia and Iran, which have steered OPEC's drive for higher, steady prices, might stop cooperating within the group.

Both North Sea Brent crude and New York crude oil futures showed gains of \$1 a barrel at one stage but prices fell back later as traders took profits following the sharp increases.

No fanfare for Soviet ships ferrying Kuwaiti oil

BAHRAIN (R) — Soviet tankers in the Gulf are carrying Kuwaiti oil through the troubled waterway without the fanfare which has accompanied the American naval escort for reflagged Kuwaiti tankers.

One of the three Soviet tankers chartered by Kuwait was holed by a mine on May 16, weeks before the first Kuwaiti ships were put under the U.S. flag, but the tankers have sailed in the Gulf safely ever since.

Shipping sources said a veil of silence surrounding their movements, in sharp contrast to the highly-publicised American operation, was probably a major factor in their safety.

"The Soviets have kept quiet," one source said, whereas "the Iranians know what's happening with the Americans and can figure out where their ships are."

The first of 11 Kuwaiti tankers to be re-registered, the Bridge-ton, hit a mine on July 24 as it sailed up the Gulf on its maiden voyage under the American flag escorted by three U.S. warships.

The sources said the incident, which caused undisputed glee in Tehran, was very likely a result of the publicity surrounding the U.S. naval operation.

Tehran did not claim responsibility, but shipping sources said the Iranians most probably laid the mine.

Although Iran has said it will attack any ship if Iraq strikes at

Iranian vessels and oil installations, Tehran's threats lately have been directed mainly at the United States.

The Soviet Union was the first superpower to have a ship attacked in the Gulf when Iranian gunboats raided the cargo ship Ivan Koroteyev on May 6 as it sailed to the Saudi Arabian port of Dammam.

The Soviet Union later called for the withdrawal from the Gulf of all warships from countries not from the region, saying the U.S. military build-up in the Gulf was increasing tension.

Iran backed the Soviet move but the United States rejected the proposal, saying it had patrolled the Gulf for 40 years and intended to protect its interests in the region.

The Soviet Union has four warships in or around the Gulf: One Krivak class frigate and three armed 650-tonne Naryva class minesweepers.

The first Soviet ship chartered to carry oil for Kuwait, the 67,980-tonne Marshal Chuykov, struck a mine as it sailed in ballast to the emirate on May 16. The blast tore a large hole in its hull.

The Chuykov was quietly repaired and it has resumed its mission of carrying refined oil products from Kuwait to Italy.

Another Soviet ship, the 67,980-tonne Marshal Bagrayan, is also making the 40-day round trip to the Mediterranean.

Eid Al Adha begins today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan, along with the Arab and Islamic worlds, today celebrates 'Eid Al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) which follows the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. Religious ceremonies will be held at various mosques around the Kingdom and all government departments and public institutions will remain closed until Friday evening to mark the occasion.

On this holy occasion, His Majesty King Hussein received cables of good wishes from senior government officials and representatives of the private sector. The cables wished the King health and happiness and further prosperity for the Jordanian people under the leadership of the King.

The Jordan Times will not be published on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday because of the 'Eid Al Adha holidays. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Saturday, Aug. 8. The Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a very happy 'Eid.

Cables of good wishes were sent to the King by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayed, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh,

Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mhellan, directors of the Intelligence, Public Security and Civil Defence departments and also trade union and youth organisation leaders and members of the public.

French fleet has mandate to strike back if attacked

PARIS (R) — A French aircraft carrier task force was crossing the Mediterranean towards the Gulf region on Monday with a mandate to strike back if Iran attacked French interests.

A Defence Ministry spokesman refused to comment on the position or exact destination of the carrier and three escort ships, which left Toulon last Thursday. The spokesman said only that the task force was continuing its two-week voyage.

There has been a news blackout since the ships left "to protect French interests in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean." France despatched the squadron two weeks after breaking off diplomatic relations with Iran.

Since the break, which left the two countries' diplomats stranded in each others' capitals, there have been frequent threats against French interests by Tehran and pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac warned on Sunday that while France did not want to dramatise the crisis, it was ready to reply to any Iranian attack.

"It is essentially a dissuasive force," he said commenting on

Bonn said ready for deal over Pershing-1A missiles

BONN (Agencies) — A newspaper said Monday the Bonn government was ready to make a deal on its ageing fleet of Pershing 1A missiles rather than let them block a superpower accord.

The Soviets say the 72 rockets and their U.S.-controlled warheads must be part of any accord on the global elimination of the superpowers' intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

The Bonn newspaper General Anzeiger said Monday the West German government was ready to eliminate the Pershings if the Soviet bloc gets rid of a similar number shorter-range missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

The Soviet bloc's Scud-3 missiles, built in the 1960s, have a range of 280 kilometres. That puts them outside the proposed U.S.-Soviet accord, which covers missiles with a range of about 500 kilometres to 5,000 kilometres.

The Scud-B missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia are within easy striking distance of targets in West Germany.

"If Moscow correspondingly lowers the number of its Scud-B missiles deployed in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, according to information obtained by

Israeli soldiers maintain total blockade of occupied Gaza

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza (R) — Israeli soldiers imposed a ban on Palestinians leaving the Gaza Strip on Monday as the army searched for assailants who killed the commander of Israel's military police in the occupied territory.

The shooting on Sunday of 21-year-old Lieutenant Ron Tal prompted the closing of Gaza port and a ban on residents travelling to jobs or visiting friends outside the strip — unprecedented steps in recent years.

The Palestine Press Service, which monitors the occupied territories, said the Israeli lieutenant at one time was an officer at Ansur II, a detention camp in the Gaza Strip for Palestinian prisoners.

Soldiers maintained a curfew in some neighbourhoods of Gaza City for the second straight day, an Israeli army spokesman said. The restrictions meant a complete shutdown of Gaza City's shopping district and kept about 60,000 Palestinians from going outside their homes until further notice, witnesses quoted by AP said.

The troops also blocked roads leading to and from Gaza, and stopped fishermen from leaving the port, said the army spokesman.

Israel Radio reported long lines of trucks and automobiles at an army checkpoint waiting to get into and out of Gaza.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the area would remain sealed as long as was necessary to catch the assailants.

He rejected accusations that the measures punished all of the Gaza Strip's 650,000 Palestinians for the deeds of a few.

The army spokesman said anyone could enter the Gaza Strip but only Jewish settlers would be allowed to leave. Some 2,000 Jews have settled there since Israel occupied it in the 1967 war.

The army sent in reinforcements after the killing and authorities have detained dozens of Arab residents for questioning. Anti-Arab Rabbi Meir Kahane, a member of parliament, and several followers raised placards on Monday in the centre of Gaza calling for the removal of all Arabs. Israel Radio said, but police escorted the group away.

Former Gaza Mayor Rashad Shawa told Israeli armed forces radio that tensions had risen because of recent suggestions by Deputy Defence Minister Michael Dekel and other Israelis that Palestinians in the occupied West Bank move to an Arab country.

"We've been trying to alert the authorities and the Israeli government that things are heading to an explosion and we want to avoid this," the former mayor said.

Israel Radio and other media reports said the Israeli officer was shot at close range with a 9-mm pistol near the city's central Palestine Square.

The army spokesman said the killed man was a professional soldier who commanded the military police in Gaza City for

the last four months.

The English-language Jerusalem Post daily said the blockade measure was used as collective punishment because the killing occurred in a crowded commercial plaza and no one tried to prevent the attack.

The spokesman alleged the attack was carried out by Arab assailants, but no suspects had been arrested.

Witnesses told AP at least 300 Palestinians in the city have been rounded up in the streets since Sunday for questioning.

A few hours after the shooting, a man identifying himself as a member of the Force 17 commando of the Palestine Liberation Organisation called a Western news agency in Jerusalem and claimed responsibility on behalf of his group.

In previous attacks in Gaza this year, one Israeli was killed and four wounded, including an Arab with Israeli citizenship.

In a related development, the army disclosed the names of two suspects in the assassination last year of Zafar Al Masri, mayor of the West Bank city of Nablus.

The army said the suspects were students at Al Najah University and identified them as Mueed Abdul Rahim Ramad, 25, and Ahmad Abu Said Hanani, 31.

The two were arrested in June and are also suspected in the shooting deaths of two Israelis. At the time, the military said the suspects had acted on orders from Syria.

Weinberger: Iran deal damaged U.S. interests

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger told congressional investigators Monday that "the interests of the United States were damaged overall" by President Ronald Reagan's decision to sell arms secretly to Iran.

"The way to avoid that is not to embark on a policy of this kind," he said as the 11-week-old Iran-contra hearings neared an end.

Testifying for the second day, Mr. Weinberger said he hopes Congress will allow presidents leeway on when to notify Congress that a covert operation has been authorised.

"A rigid time or an inflexible time is not a very good thing," he said. Mr. Weinberger said he generally favours an existing legal requirement for notification of Congress in a "timely fashion."

Mr. Weinberger was the 29th and last witness to be interrogated in public session at the hearings on the secret U.S. sale of arms to Iran and diversion of profits to benefit the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

Leaders of the House of Representatives and Senate investigating panels hoped to wrap up

(Continued on page 3)

Plan for surrender of Tamil weapons hits snags

COLOMBO (Agencies) — The accord aimed at ending the four-year ethnic civil war ran into new trouble Monday as the largest Tamil militia refused to begin turning over their weapons by the deadline set for surrender of all rebel guns.

The move by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam came as the government was ready to fly foreign reporters to the Tamil-dominated Jaffna Peninsula for a ceremony to mark the start of the rebel arms surrender. But the trip was postponed at least until Tuesday.

The 3:30 p.m. Monday deadline — originally set for all arms to be surrendered by the rebels — passed with the turn-over not even begun.

Government and military sources, who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity, said Tamil rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran refused to turn over any weapons Monday from his Tigers militia.

The military source said the 33-year-old Prabhakaran apparently backed out of a surrender because he wanted more time to talk to rebel commanders in the war-torn northern and eastern provinces.

It appeared earlier that Mr. Prabhakaran's return Sunday night to Sri Lanka signalled that India had worked out a plan for the Tigers to give up its guns.

Tamil sources in Madras in southern India — where the Tigers and other rebel groups have exile headquarters — said Mr. Prabhakaran had agreed to give up rebel guns under an assurance he would have power in an interim government over Tamil areas.

A senior government official in Colombo told reporters Sunday night that Mr. Prabhakaran had agreed to the surrender of arms shortly before he returned to Jaffna from India.

The guerrillas have observed a ceasefire that went into effect on Friday under the Indian-backed accord but refused to hand their guns to 3,000 Indian troops.

A spokesman for the Indian high commission (embassy) said the surrender would start "in the next few days" and Tamil sources believed Mr. Prabhakaran would first need the endorsement of his field commanders.

Sources in Jaffna said the Tigers had called a mass meeting at Jaffna University on Monday to explain the situation to the overwhelmingly Tamil population.

Majali honours graduates

ZARQA (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali said that the process of preparing citizens in Jordan to cope with the requirements of development of the nation has always received the attention and care of His Majesty King Hussein.

Addressing the graduating students of Zarqa Community College, Mr. Majali said Jordan's educational institution has gone a long way in its efforts to lay the foundation of the Kingdom's renaissance.

Mr. Majali referred to the great interest expressed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to reevaluate the educational system in order to formulate an educational policy that can meet the needs of future generations.

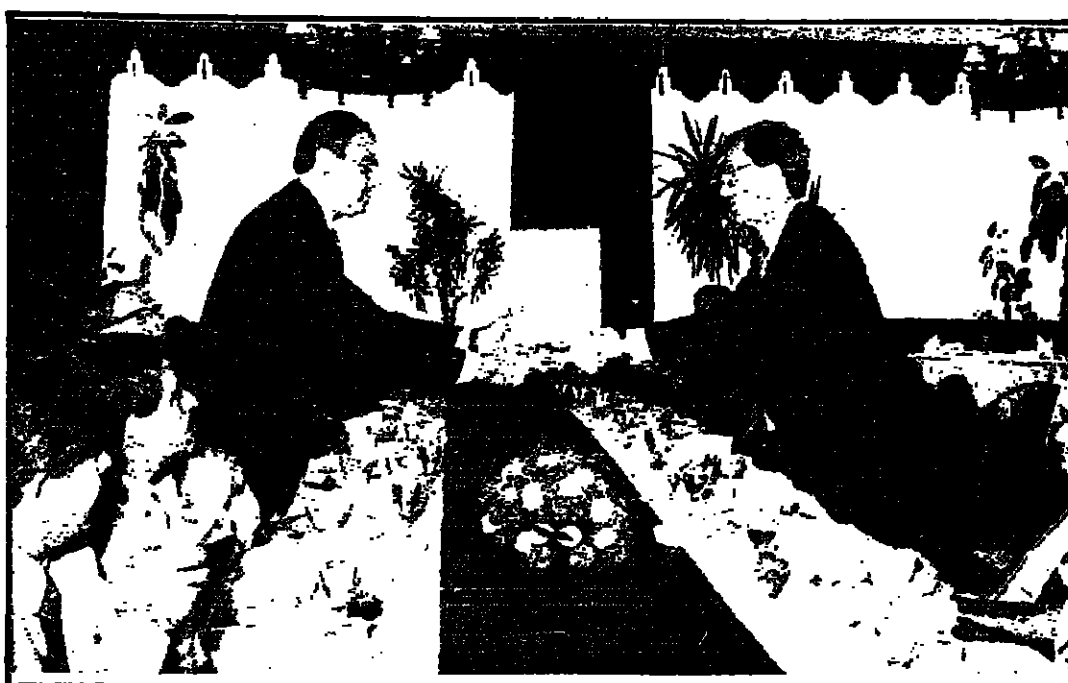
Also addressing the graduates was Mr. Salman Al Qudah, chairman of the Board of Trustees who spoke about the establishment of the college and its efforts in providing qualified cadres.

At the end of the celebration, Mr. Majali presented the 230 graduating students with their diplomas.

Also in Zarqa, Mr. Tayseer Arafah, director of Zarqa Governorate's Education Department, patronised a special celebration held Sunday to honour students from the governorate who excelled in their General Secondary Certificate Examination (tawjihi) this year. Speaking for the students, Shihab Ahmad Hassan Al Qura'n said the exceptional test results achieved by the students are the results of joint efforts by the teachers, students and families.

He also praised the Department of Education, saying their efforts contributed to the high test scores.

At the end of the celebration, Mr. Arafah presented the outstanding students from the literary, scientific, vocational, agricultural, commercial and nursing areas with awards.



ENVOY RECEIVES MEDAL: Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri presents the Medal of Independence of the First Order to U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Paul Harold Becker during a lunch banquet held Monday to honour the ambassador. His Majesty King Hussein conferred the medal on Mr. Becker on the occasion of the end of his ambassadorship in Jordan (Petra photo).

Requirements for degree equivalence necessary for equal treatment — Assad

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad said in an interview published in the local press Monday that the government does not contemplate banning students from going abroad for higher study and that measures taken with regard to the equivalence of degrees obtained abroad were necessary.

The minister was referring to a decision by the Council of Higher Education last week which ruled that degrees obtained abroad will be considered equivalent to Jordanian University degrees only if their holders meet the council's requirements.

The Council of Higher Education, he said, will endorse medical degrees obtained abroad only if the students had earlier obtained at least an average of 85 per cent on the tawjihi examination at the end of their secondary school education. Engineering degrees

will be endorsed only if students obtained at least 80 per cent on tawjihi, and degrees in other subjects only if students obtained at 65 per cent average.

The minister said that this step had to be taken in order to give equal chance for students studying here and those continuing their higher education abroad. He pointed to the fact that no Jordanian university admits students if they do not have the minimum average required in the tawjihi exam.

Dr. Assad said that Jordanian universities are expected to absorb 1,000 more students this year than last year. Earlier reports said that Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan last year together admitted 6,000 students in various faculties.

This year, Yarmouk University, and the Jordan University of

Science and Technology are each expected to admit 2,000 students, the University of Jordan 3,000, and Mu'ta University 700 students.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Dr. Assad noted, will continue to take steps to absorb students at all Jordanian universities in the coming years and will continue to allow Jordanians to pursue higher studies and obtain university degrees abroad.

Dr. Assad also announced that plans are underway to allow students who finish their courses at the country's community colleges to be admitted to local universities and complete their courses for their first university degrees, provided they meet the requirements of the universities.

He said this will allow a greater number of students to join Jordanian universities instead of going abroad for their education.

Union calls for changes in labour, social security laws

GFJTU excludes unions from board, guild charges

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Banks, Insurance and Accounting Employees have concluded their extraordinary session held to discuss the forced resignations of 32 bank employees, and called on all banks and financial institutions to desist immediately from taking any extreme measures such as firing staff from their jobs, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i.

The union issued a number of recommendations to safeguard the rights of staff and their interests. It recommended that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and other concerned financial institutions direct investments to the proper channels to ensure that financial institutions are secure, thus securing the rights of employees. The union also called on the CBJ to play a more active role in countering the recent measures in which 32 Jordanian employees were laid off.

The union also called on the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to work to give staff their rights and solve labour conflicts that may arise.

Another recommendation made during the session called for an amendment to the labour law which allows staffs to receive entitlements and indemnities without having to refer such dis-

putes to civil courts. The proposed amendment to the labour law is designed to safeguard the rights of labourers and to prevent the need of workers having to file court cases against employers, a matter which might endanger the labourers themselves.

The bank, insurance and accounting employees also recommended that special legislation on insurance, which deals with merging insurance companies, include legislation safeguarding the jobs and rights of companies' personnel after the merging of companies takes place.

The union also recommended to the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU) to direct special attention to the workers causes and to handle their cases more seriously and quickly.

The recommendation also

stressed the importance of achieving unity among trade unions and the labour movement in general and called for strengthening ties of solidarity with Arab and international labour movements.

In another recommendation, the union called for an amendment to the Social Security Law to provide unemployment insurance and to direct the Social Security Corporation's funds toward productive sectors that can employ a number of Jordanian workers.

The union called for holding the 4th conference of the GFJTU as soon as possible and for putting an end to the isolation imposed on activities of some unions through denying them representation at the GFJTU's executive board.

It also stressed the need for ending the flow of foreign labour into the country and for striking a balance in job opportunities in the Jordanian labour market.

The union further called for the formation of a general professional complex that brings together labourers and professionals. The proposed association would be entrusted with defending the rights of trade union members and finding solutions to labour issues.

Haj draws to a close amid Iran's diatribe

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never be cleansed even by judgment day."

"We hold America responsible for all these crimes," he said. "God willing, in an opportune time, we shall deal with her, thus avenging the children of Abraham on the Nimrods, the satans and the mammons."

Saudi Television showed an Iranian pilgrim saying in a tape broadcast on Sunday he had organised the transportation to the kingdom of a large amount of explosives which he said was to be detonated during last year's pilgrimage.

Mohammad Hassan Ali Mohammadi Dahnawi said 51 kilograms of plastic explosives were carried in the false bottoms of 99 suitcases which Iranian pilgrims had been requested to bring to him two weeks before travelling from Esfahan in central Iran.

A suspicious official discovered the explosives when the pilgrims arrived at Jeddah airport, the television said.

Dahnawi said he was asked to organise the transport by an Iranian Revolutionary Guards corps official named Reza Tawakoli to whom he was to hand over the explosives in Saudi Arabia.

Asked the targets, Dahnawi, whose answers in Farsi were translated in Arabic, said: "I do not know. Ask the Iranian government."

Also shown on the tape were Iranian pilgrims, including women, who said they had not known their suitcases contained explosives.

The television said they were sent home after performing the pilgrimage but did not say what happened to Tawakoli, Dahnawi and his brother Mohammad Ali, who was also involved.

It said the incident was not disclosed at the time in order not to disturb the pilgrimage.

Demonstrators in Tehran invaded the Saudi and Kuwaiti embassies after the Mecca clashes on Friday. Kuwait said Sunday two of its diplomats held in the Iranian capital had been freed but there was no word on four missing staff from the Saudi mission.

The Iranian news agency said a six-point resolution on the Gulf war was issued following a demonstration by about one million people in Tehran on Saturday.

Iraq has agreed to a U.N. call for an immediate ceasefire provided Iran does the same.

The Tehran resolution reaffirmed Iran's demand for the overthrow of the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the destruction of the ruling Baath Party as the main condition for ending the conflict.

The resolution also referred to a message from Ayatollah Khomeini last Tuesday which sparked the political demonstrations by Iranian pilgrims in Mecca.

The Tehran media referred to the message as Ayatollah Khomeini's "political-ideological testament" and "a charter for revolution."

A text carried in newspapers rejected the notion that political demonstrations were inappropriate during the Mecca pilgrimage, saying pilgrims should "not refrain from giving expression to their hatred of enemies of God and people."

As Saudi Arabia reported messages of support for King Fahd and the ruling family from Islamic leaders, Iran sought to rally Muslim opinion to its side.

President Khamenei asked ambassadors on Muslim states in Tehran not to be indifferent to the events, while approaches were also made to the United Nations and other world and Islamic bodies.

Seven delegations left Tehran on Monday for various Muslim countries seeking support for Iran.

An Iranian deputy foreign minister, Ali Mohammad Besharati, said the death of the pilgrims was the final blow to relations between the Tehran regime and Saudi Arabia.

"This incident by the Saudis was a coup de grace which was fired into the brain of our bilateral relations," he said in a Tehran Radio broadcast.

Mr. Besharati did not say whether Tehran would formally break relations with Riyadh, but his comments strongly implied it would.

Most Arab and Muslim leaders have closed ranks with King Fahd, condemning the Iranian demonstrations at Mecca and offering their good offices to help deter any further activism in Mecca.

Among the first to telephone King Fahd was King Hussein. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, an ally of Iran, expressed sorrow at the deaths, Saudi radio said.

In Beirut, official sources said Lebanon's President Amin Gemayel sent a letter to King Fahd condemning the violence in Mecca.

"Gemayel conveyed to King Fahd his deepest condolences over the deeds that disrupted security and led to the death of innocent victims and asserted Lebanon's solidarity with Saudi Arabia," one official source said.

The source said Mr. Gemayel's letter asserted "that in the end logic will win against violence."

In Bangkok, the English-language newspaper The Nation said the tragedy in Mecca was deliberately provoked by Iranians bent

on further escalating the mounting tension in the Gulf.

The paper said in an editorial: "The fact that the Iranians sole purpose of going to Mecca was not religious was clearly demonstrated by the fact that they burned an effigy of President Reagan, an effigy they clearly did not pluck out of thin air."

It said: "No sooner than the news spread of the demonstration and the numerous deaths of the Iranians, in Tehran mobs savaged both the Saudi Arabia and Kuwaiti embassies — something for which they needed an excuse and for which they were prepared to casually sacrifice a couple of hundred Iranian lives."

"There seems to be a clear intention of the ayatollahs of Iran trying to distance themselves from the rest of the Muslim World incidentally trying to punish Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for helping Iraq in the nearly seven-year war."

"By provoking the Mecca tragedy... Iran has gone a step too far."

In Kuala Lumpur, a newspaper controlled by Malaysia's ruling party assailed Iran.

"To bring the question of politics to the holy land is too much... this dishonourable act should not be allowed to happen again because it will damage the holy Islamic religion," said an editorial in Utusan Malaysia.

The newspaper, controlled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammad's ruling party, said it regretted the Iranian demonstrators' lack of respect. "Their (the Iranians) lack of respect for the holy land, lack of feelings for the congregation, which is there to perform the Haj... is regretted."

"We definitely cannot agree if the Saudi government decides to ban Iranian pilgrims from performing the Haj in Mecca in future, but if it wants to it certainly has a very strong cause," Utusan said.

Weinberger: interests damaged

(Continued from page 1)

the hostages.

"That's the kind of conclusion that can only be drawn by people who don't have any knowledge of the facts. I think it's a very unfair characterisation," Mr. Weinberger said.

"We did oppose it. We opposed it at every step of the way. And if the distancing were true, I would not have ever made further inquiries when I first began getting the intelligence reports that led me into what the facts actually were."

On his first day at the witness table last Friday, Mr. Weinberger said he was forced to rely on unspecified foreign intelligence sources to learn key details of Mr. Reagan's Iran initiative.

Iran begins naval exercises

(Continued from page 1)

bound to or from Kuwait.

The Gas Prince safely passed on Saturday a suspected Iranian mine field near Iran's Farsi Island where another refuelled Kuwaiti tanker, the Bridgeton, was holed as the ships sailed towards Kuwait on July 24 under U.S. naval escort.

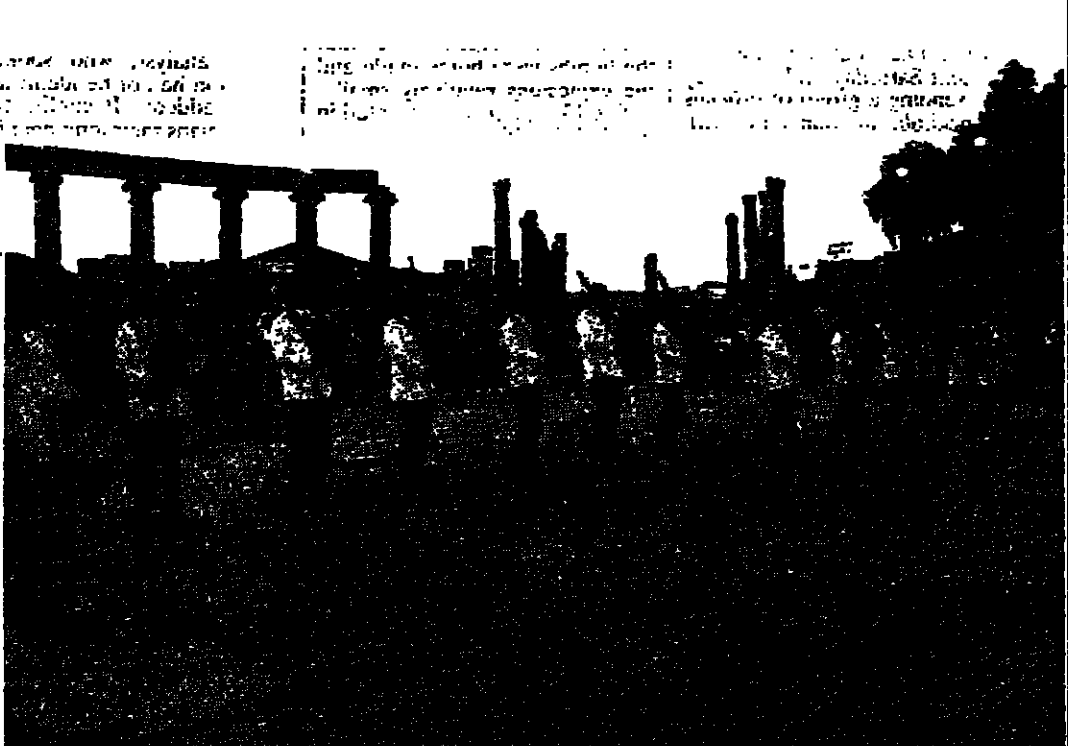
Shipping sources said the supertanker finished loading 230,000 tonnes of crude oil on Sunday — about 60 per cent of its capacity — and was anchored off the main oil port of Mina Al Ahmadi. Adm. Bensen declined

to say when it might sail. But he said the American flag would be hoisted on three more Kuwaiti tankers within 10 days.

Shipping sources identified one of the ships as the 46,723-tonne Gas King, formerly the Gas Al Burgan, and said it was due to arrive in Kuwait on Aug. 10.

Pentagon officials in the United States have said the navy will bring eight mine-sweeping helicopters and three to four coastal mine-sweeping boats into the Gulf to help clear mines like the one that blasted a hole in the Bridgeton during the initial convoy run.

Jerash Festival draws to a successful close



JERASH FESTIVAL

of Culture & Arts
11-20 July 1987

The sun has set on the 1987 Jerash Festival, but a brief, final look of some of the many unforgettable performances provide lasting memories. Starting from the top left: a ballerina from the Moscow State Ballet Theatre exhibits graceful movements in the South Theatre; top right, the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces Band, which played at the festival for three consecutive weeks, performs one of its concerts; bottom right, the Syrian Folklore Group delights South Theatre audience with traditional songs and dances; and bottom left, a somewhat off-balance, but nonetheless beautiful shot of Jerash which captures the festivities combination of modern crowds in the ancient Roman city (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan).



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Stop the Iranian abuse

THERE IS little doubt that the threats issued by Tehran against Saudi Arabia after Friday's Iranian riots in the holy city of Mecca represent the latest act in a well-planned and orchestrated scenario aimed at adding to the already tense and unstable situation in the Gulf region. If the sabre-rattling from Tehran is any indication, there is no remorse whatsoever in the Iranian capital that the Iranians have only themselves to blame for the bloody events in Mecca, and that, if anything, they should be held responsible for the death of 85 Saudi security men and 42 non-Iranian pilgrims and Mecca residents among the 402 killed. Furthermore, well-substantiated Saudi charges that the Iranians had always planned wide-scale subversive actions in Mecca and Medina during the pilgrimage point to the reality that Tehran holds political considerations above religious dictates and tradition and will spare no-one in its drive to achieve its wicked goals. It is not hard to envisage the scene of death and destruction among the millions gathered for the holy Haj if the hundreds of kilograms of explosives, found in the baggage of Iranian pilgrims, had been detonated near the Grand Mosque on the eve of the pilgrimage.

The Iranian regime has turned a blind eye and deaf ear to the overwhelming Arab and Islamic condemnation of its role in the violent abuse of the sanctity of Mecca and the House of God; they stubbornly refuse to listen to or see reason. As it is rightly said, it is easier to wake up one who is really asleep than one who is feigning sleep. This is precisely the case with Tehran and it is time for the Islamic community to join together and wake up the fanatic ayatollahs and their equally fanatic cronies in Iran. Their fiery brand of religion has little resemblance to Islam, the religion of love and peace, of faith and piety, of reason and dialogue.

Hesitation over Iran's action on the part of any Islamic country which takes pride in its faith will only bring more destruction and plunge the Muslim World into a deep abyss of disunity and confusion, and leave murky waters for Tehran to fish in. What is needed today is a firm and clear ultimatum from the world Islamic community to the Iranian regime ordering an end to its fanaticism and its evil deeds which represent suffering and disaster not only for their own people but also for the others in the region. Such a warning should emanate from a summit of the heads of Islamic states, who should meet immediately, brushing aside all that stands in the way for an emergency gathering.

Joint Islamic action is the need of the day if we are to find an end to the Iranian abuse of our noble faith. In the absence of such action, we will only find ourselves slipping further and further into a state of helplessness and despair and will be left vulnerable to the systematic Iranian assaults on what we believe in and stand for.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: An ultimatum for Iran

THE bloody events in Mecca perpetrated by the Iranian regime should open the eyes of all Muslims to the serious consequences that could result from such actions. The Arab and Islamic worlds should take speedy and strong action that would make the rulers in Tehran understand that their ill-behaviour can never be condoned and that the Arab Nation does not allow such atrocities to prevail. The Islamic countries should now form a delegation to be sent to Tehran, giving a last advice to the rulers there against pursuing their eccentric practices in other Islamic countries or against humanity anywhere in the world. This delegation should remind the rulers in Tehran that provocative actions would have very grave consequences, harming the Islamic Nation as a whole. The Islamic countries should define their position clearly after the dialogue with the rulers in Tehran in order to safeguard their own interest and their own security. It is time that the rulers in Tehran understood that only through dialogue among Islamic states can cohesion be achieved among brothers of the same faith. It is time for the Iranians to reconsider their present irresponsible position and stop their atrocities, their war on Iraq and their ill-behaviour towards other nations.

Al Dustour: Time for Islamic action

REACTIONS to the bloody Iranian rioting in Mecca last Friday clearly indicate that the Muslim World is now in deed of a summit meeting to consider the present dangerous situation in the Islamic World. Leaders from the Arab World have issued the call for such a summit not only to deal with the consequences of the bloody events but also to consider Iran's constant threats directed against the Arab World and also its hints to trigger a sectarian conflict reminiscent of the dark days of Islam. An Islamic summit meeting would no doubt handle such issues and propose solutions for chronic problems plaguing the Islamic and Arab states. An Islamic summit is bound to help find a settlement to the Gulf conflict and the current offshoots of that conflict in the Gulf. The Arab leaders who called for an Islamic summit are no doubt concerned about the well being of their nation, and they are no doubt acting from a responsible position appalled by what they had been and heard of the bloody events in Mecca. We hope that Islamic countries will respond favourably to the call for a summit. We also hope that the Arab leaders will have their own summit meeting as soon as possible to find means of confronting the looming dangers.

Sawt Al Shaab: Preaching and practising

THE Israeli military authorities have once again placed the Gaza Strip under a state of siege, detaining hundreds of innocent Arab people following the killing of an Israeli military police commander in the occupied area on Sunday. This siege and the detention of people are part of Israel's terrorist campaign directed against the Arab population in their own towns and villages to stifle their national spirit and to subdue their resistance. The Israelis at the same time are stepping up their measures of land confiscation and eviction of Arab inhabitants from their homeland. What Israel wants is land without inhabitants so that no obstacle can stand in the face of Judaizing the whole Palestinian land. Israel's defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, made threatening statements against the Arabs following the incident and his words were echoed by the speaker of the Israeli parliament, both calling for the deportation of all Arab inhabitants from Palestinian land and so ending all problems related to them. Despite Israel's bragging about peaceful co-existence with the Arab population, Israel's leaders continue to take arbitrary actions against the local inhabitants triggering reprisals, and also continue threats for evicting all Arabs from their homes and property.

Accord to end Tamil war faces many obstacles

By C.G. Labelle
The Associated Press

COLOMBO — The accord signed by Sri Lanka and India to stop four years of bloody civil war on this island is facing its most crucial test — the unwillingness of Tamil rebels to give up the guns that have won them a tenuous political gain.

If the rebels do not succumb to Indian pressure and give up their weapons in the next few days, it would force a battle between the 3,000 Indian army soldiers sent to keep the peace and the very people they promised to protect.

It would sink the fragile accord and threaten the government of President Junius R. Jayewardene, whose signing of the pact already has set off two days of rioting that left 40 people dead. It is a traumatic time for Sri Lanka, said Neelan Tiruchelvam, a Harvard-educated lawyer who is one of the few Tamil politicians to remain in Sri Lanka through the years of civil war.

As Tiruchelvam and others see it, the failure of the peace accord could let loose all the anger between the minority Tamils and majority Sinhalese built up over a four-year war that has left 6,000 people dead.

The Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, are 18 per cent of the population. They claim they are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese Buddhists, who run the government.

They have been agitating for more autonomy since 1956, when the government declared the Sinhala language of the majority

to be the official language.

In July 1983, the battle erupted into open warfare, with the rebels demanding a separate Tamil nation in northeastern Sri Lanka.

The accord, signed by Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, offers a single provincial government over the region. It also recognises Tamil and English as official languages in addition to Sinhala.

There will have to be a referendum later to make the provincial government permanent, but Tiruchelvam calls it a significant step in redressing Tamil grievances. He and others also see India's signing of an accord in which it guarantees a peace plan as a dramatic development.

India — long accused by Sri Lanka of supporting Tamil rebels in their war for an independent homeland — has essentially promised to disarm the Tamils and ensure their safety once their weapons have been put away.

But the prospect of peace did not bring a sigh of relief to the Sinhalese. Rioting aimed at the government and India erupted.

State-run buses, banks and offices were set to the torch as the rioters chanted "Rajiv Gandhi go home" and "Let's kill Jayewardene."

Opposition politicians and even some of the Sri Lankan president's colleagues derided him for falling into an Indian trap that could only win the Tamils the separate homeland they propose to call Eelam.

It is a common Sinhalese fear on this island of 16 million, sepa-

rated only by a narrow strait from massive India, with its 780 million people, 60 million of whom are Indian Tamils.

The situation seemed at its most volatile when 3,000 Indian soldiers arrived, invited by Jayewardene to help disarm the Tamil rebels in the north and free his own men to put down the rioting in the south.

But the rioting subsided instead of boiling over at the Indians' arrival. Sinhalese anger seemed to be replaced by confusion over whether the Indian soldiers might really bring peace.

People were asking whether the Indian troops would actually disarm the Tamils and, more importantly, what Tamil rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran was going to do.

Prabhakaran, head of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest Tamil militia, was flown to New Delhi more than a week ago for Indian officials to sell him on the peace accord with Sri Lanka.

Some believed Prabhakaran would have little choice but to go along with the plan, even though he expressed fear for the safety of Tamils once the rebels gave up their guns.

Sri Lankan Sinhalese have long complained that Prabhakaran's Liberation Tigers could not survive without support from India.

They maintain that weapons smuggled from India and sanctuary in southern India kept the Tamil rebel movement alive. The Tigers and other rebel groups all maintain exile headquarters in

south India.

The vehemence is raising the prospect that the Indian army, sent to protect the Tamils once they gave up their weapons, will instead wind up fighting them.

Lt.-Gen. Depinder Singh, commander of the Indian Army Southern Command, was asked about the possibility of India having to wrest the weapons from the Tamils.

He said the army would try persuasion first, but then added: "If they have not surrendered the arms by the deadline, we have to go looking for them."

The deadline is Monday, five days after the signing of the peace accord.

While both Gandhi and Jayewardene have talked of flexible deadlines, eventually the Indian army may have to fulfill Gandhi's promise — to guarantee a peace — and do it by battling the Tamil rebels.

If not, the India-Sri Lanka accord will disappear. In its wake, even more anger at Jayewardene will likely well up, and the president's political position will be difficult.

Jayewardene faces discord within his own United National Party on the peace accord. Even some in his own cabinet have derided it.

The Buddhist monks and opposition politicians who first attacked the peace accord are waiting now to see what will happen, what Prabhakaran and the Indian army will do. But they may not wait long if the accord begins to unravel.

After Thatcher victory, Labour rethinking policy, Alliance split

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's opposition parties are busily analysing what it will take to dislodge Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her free-enterprise Conservative Party in the next general elections.

Mrs. Thatcher on June 11 became the first British prime minister this century elected to a third consecutive term.

The next election, which doesn't have to be called until June 1992, will likely have a different cast of parties and issues.

Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, has launched a two-year policy reappraisal, saying his Socialist party must appeal to the "haves" and the "have-not-enoughs" as well as the "have nots" if it is to win the next election.

The centrist Alliance, which failed to crack Britain's two-party system, is considering whether its partners, the 159-year-old Liberal Party and 6-year-old Social Democratic Party (SDP), should merge or separate.

Whatever the outcome, the Alliance appears to be on its last legs. It won only 22 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons, to Mrs. Thatcher's 376 and Labour's 229.

Mrs. Thatcher wasted no time in moving the Tories into position for 1992, introducing a radical legislative programme aimed at promoting greater individual choice and forever wiping out Socialism's strength in British politics.

If it seems early to be talking about the next election, Kinnock noted that "elections are won in years, not in months." Liberal Party leader David Steel declared, "The battle is on for the post-Thatcherite era."

The major post-election development has been the split in the Alliance, whose two-headed leadership and sometimes competing policies, especially on defence, failed to attract voters.

Steel brought the merger question to a head three days after the election, calling for the creation of a single new party without giving advance notice to his Alliance partner, SDP leader David Owen.

"Six years is long enough for engagement. It is time for wedding bells," the Liberal leader said. "In my heart of hearts I believe that had we been one party at the last election with one leader, we would have swept the board."

But Owen said merger was "a recipe for disunity" and would risk abandonment of crucial SDP policies including the need for an independent British nuclear deterrent.

The merger issue sparked weeks of name-calling and public washing of political laundry within the Alliance and among SDP members. Alliance support in the latest market opinion and research international poll fell to 17 per cent — 6 per cent lower than their vote in the June election.

A ballot of the SDP's 58,000 members is under way, but Owen says he will maintain the SDP as

an independent party even if a majority desert to join the Liberals, as polls now predict. The vote will be counted on Aug. 5.

The SDP was launched by disgruntled Labourites who believed Labour was moving too far left. Owen, a former Labour foreign secretary, is the only one of its four founders to oppose a merger.

The Liberals will consider the merger issue during their annual party conference in mid-September and will then ballot their membership. The other party conferences in September and October are expected to focus on policies for the 1990s.

Labour ran by far the best campaign but exit polls showed it didn't attract the growing number of middle-class home-owners and shareholders and was hurt by its non-nuclear defence policy.

Kinnock said he wants Labour to appeal to voters as individuals rather than as members of groups like trade unions, the party's main financial backers, or classes. "Anything is up for grabs," he said, expressing hope that he wouldn't have to drag the party "kicking and screaming" into accepting new initiatives as he did in the past few years.

Labour's reshuffle of its loss is expected to focus on economic, industrial and employment policies, including two key vote-losers, the party's commitment to renationalise all state industries sold off by the Tories and its opposition to the sale of public housing to residents. A new look at Labour's non-nuclear defence commitment is also expected, though Kinnock appears wary of making any significant changes.

Labour's often-divisive left wing came out of the election with even stronger support and Kinnock's team of spokesmen in parliament moved to the left. But Kinnock managed to put his young, telegenic supporters from the so-called "soft-left" in key positions, relegating both the "hard left" and the "centre-right" which dominated the last shadow cabinet.

Bryan Gould, the party's popular campaign coordinator and its new spokesman on trade and industry, said Labour must change its image and abandon policies "which cannot be sold to the electorate."

"The illusion that there is an easy way to defeat Mrs. Thatcher can only inhibit the efforts we have to make on our own account if we are to win the next time," Gould said.

Mrs. Thatcher, who has focused on reviving the economy and weakening the grip of trade unions, surprised some critics by picking the inner cities — which are traditional Labour strongholds — as the main target for revitalisation in her third term.

"There can be no no-go areas for this party," Conservative Party Chairman Norman Tebbit said. With a 102-seat majority in the 650-seat House of Commons, Mrs. Thatcher's domestic programme is certain of passage though a plan to replace local property taxes with a personal or "poll" tax on all adults has already run into opposition from some rank-and-file Tories.

Month of change, uncertainty on Korean political, social scene

By Edwin Q. White
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — One month ago President Chun Doo-hwan announced acceptance of a series of reforms proposed by his designated successor that changed the country's political picture overnight.

The ensuing period since has been one of dramatic differences — and uncertainty.

The developments included Chun's July 1 announcement that he fully supported the proposals advanced two days before by Roh Tae-woo, chairman of the ruling Democratic Justice Party. The apparent cave-in gave the political opposition almost everything it had been demanding in months of bitter, often-violent confrontation.

At the top of the reforms list were acceptance of constitutional changes that would provide for the direct election of the country's next president, and an amnesty that included dissident leader Kim Dae-jung, restoring his civil rights and giving him a legitimate role in politics.

Roh was picked by Chun and nominated by the ruling party to succeed to the presidency under a timetable that calls for Chun to give up power in February. He could well face Kim in an election race if the still-divided opposition makes the dissident their candidate.

The selection of Roh, like Chun a former general, was an important factor in widespread demonstrations that swept the country during much of June, drawing popular support to the opposition and obviously showing the ruling camp the depth of discontent.

The changes in the basic political scene also have spilled over into the sectors of Korean life. Labour activists and workers have been caught up in an outburst of protests for higher wages and other benefits. Only a few weeks ago, strikes were virtually outlawed and unions controlled by companies under close government supervision.

The labour unrest reached such a point earlier this week that it brought warnings from government officials of a serious threat to South Korea's booming economy.

In the field of education, where students traditionally have been in the forefront of government opposition, there have been moves to reinstate students and teachers once in disfavour with authorities.

Reforms have been promised that would provide campus autonomy and a more liberal approach to curriculum and controversy.

In June, students were again in the vanguard of the demonstrations that shook the government. Since the June 29 turnabout, they have been mostly quiet, but have made clear they are waiting to see if the proposed reforms are carried out.

The domestic media, only recently under tough guidelines that ruled out almost all criticism

of the ruling establishment, have seized eagerly on new freedoms still not granted officially.

Protests have taken place with newspapers and broadcast outlets, assailing managements and engaging in self-criticism for slanted reporting.

The government has promised that the basic press law will be changed, and that other rigid controls will be ended or relaxed.

Newspapers have been told they can again base correspondents in provincial areas, not relying on the sole Korean news agency for such coverage. Artists, academics and other intellectuals have joined in the chorus, holding seminars and other meetings critical of the past and calling for freedom. Other people, including some writers or columnists who long supported stern government policies, have come out with preachings on the wonders of democratisation.

Still, after a month of a different South Korea, many questions remain unanswered. Heated arguments centre on what happened and why.

Roh last week said he brought off the stunning June 29 announcement on his own, without consulting Chun in advance but confident that the president would agree. Others still say no, claiming that such a move could never have been made without prior understanding reached by emissaries, if not face-to-face at the top.

The role of the military, traditionally powerful in Korean politics, also remains unclear. It appears that some harder-line military circles opposed a sudden plunge toward democracy. At one point in June, the possibility of a military move was close to becoming reality.

Now there are signs that many military men are in agreement that South Korea today is a far different country from in 1960 or 1980, when troops took to the streets to take control.

But doubters warn of other possible changes that could take place as quickly as those of the past month.

There is no argument over the fact that many things must happen rapidly and that the level of difficulties remains high. There must be compromises and agreements on constitutional revisions to change the method of selecting a president, changes in election laws and campaign practices, a national referendum to approve constitutional reforms.

There must be accords between still badly divided factions in the major opposition and the stroking of minor opposition groups, along with moves by the ruling powers to show they meant what they said a month ago.

All this must be done with a wary eye on the scheduled transfer of power in February and the Seoul Olympics in 1988. So far the signs of real progress are not overly impressive.

One former U.S. envoy to Seoul used to note, however, that Koreans liked to go all the way to the edge, then pull back just in time. They may well do it again.

Stop street killings

By Tareq Masarweh

IN one of the editions of Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper I saw 18 obituaries of which six were for people killed in "regrettable incidents," a term normally used to refer to road accidents. As is clear then the rate of obituaries is rather high due to deaths on the roads, although of course, newspaper obituaries are no indication of mortality statistics in Jordan.

Take a look at the flow of traffic in our cities and along our major highways, and you will be surprised to see that every thing lacks discipline, order and ethics, a situation that could easily invite death to tens of people daily had it not been for heaven's mercy.

The streets of Amman and other Jordanian towns and cities are crossing one another in a rather bizarre manner, not to be found in other world cities.

Engineers who had planned these streets must have carried out the work in the past half century with land speculators' mentality in mind. One still hears from time to time the land "promotion phrase" that such a residential plot is located on a junction overlooking two streets or three streets and that one of these streets could be a commercial one and so on.

These junctions are numerous and adversely affect the flow of traffic in a country whose statistics show that the proportion of cars to humans is very high and indeed without any justification. At one time in the past the government entered into the trade of issuing taxi licence numbers with the purpose of "augmenting the treasury," and the people embarked on this sort of "developmental investment" with the result that Amman's streets turned into "metal rivers" where taxis hunt passengers. This is still going on and taxis' horns are blown to attract pedestrians attention and they shift abruptly from one side of the street to another to pick up a "prey".

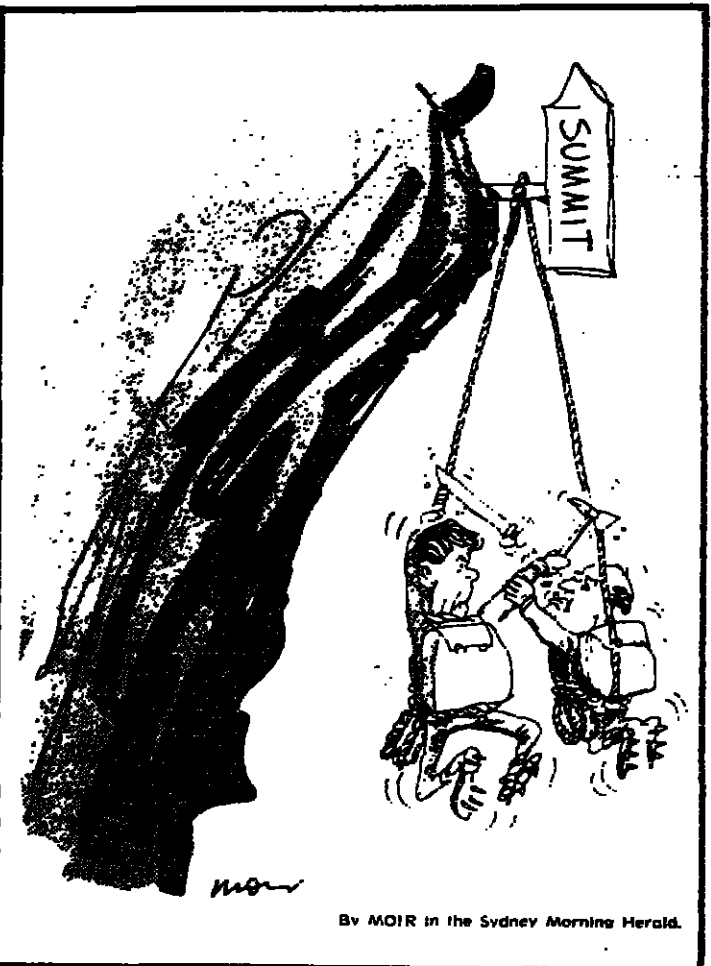
We really wonder why the concerned authorities are still hesitant in barring half this fleet of taxis from roaming the streets and so help provide protection for the people and the streets themselves. This can be done simply by allowing taxis with odd and even numbers on their licence plates to operate on alternate days. This measure at least can preserve the lives of people, reduce damage to the streets, save fuel and also is beneficial for car owners themselves.

There exists a sort of drivers who I believe should be deprived of the right of obtaining driving licences. Among these are pick-up truck drivers who practically live in their vehicles eating and sleeping in them and allow their beards to grow; and those spoilt and irresponsible youths who speed with their parents cars. It is noticed that the traffic department is actually more concerned with exacting financial fines than looking into the seriousness of the violation.

Penalty for these people should include the withdrawal of their driving licence for one year or six months at least. Radar should be installed in every street attached to a special camera to take photographs of cars exceeding the speed limit. These equipment which are not so expensive and can be paid for in instalment offer far better service than the existing radar equipment which are rarely seen these days. We ought to stop the carnage in our streets and on roads through strict measures that can force people to get accustomed to discipline and abide by law.

We hope that Mayor of Greater Amman will revise street plans in residential areas of the capital even though this could lead to cancellation of a number of streets or junctions and the establishment of public gardens in their place for children to play.

Amman started off as a small town early this century but it soon grew into a metropolis with one and a half million inhabitants. Such overgrowth requires new measures, new laws and unusual regulations.



By MOIR in the Sydney Morning Herald.

LETTERS

A little friendliness please

To the Editor:

I DO appreciate the fact that Royal Jordanian (RJ) has launched a new campaign to promote the airline and its image. A new name and look have been given to its planes, staff uniforms have been redesigned, and new advertising gimmicks are under way. The perfect way of doing things to push an airline described as Jordan's ambassador to the world.

However, a very important aspect of on-board services appear to have been overlooked (On several occasions, I did in fact convey my suggestions over the deficiency through the on-board suggestion forms and it appears that these suggestions were either ignored or failed to reach the right eyes). It concerns the on-board behaviour of most RJ hostesses which leaves much to be desired. Foremost of all, they could do with a refresher course in how to be friendly and helpful to the passengers instead of snapping at them. Personally, it is my experience that I have never travelled aboard an RJ flight without having a hostess being rude to me and other passengers. There has been no change after the new campaign was launched. Some of the hostesses impart an impression that they have personal problems. But then, why bring the effects of the problems aboard instead of trying to put in an effort at providing efficient service and doing it willingly?

The following was the comment of a seasoned fellow-passenger in my most recent travel aboard RJ: "Well, I can't blame the poor girls. They have to do all the work, while the stewards sit in the back smoking and chatting as if they are VIP passengers."

Of course, one cannot overlook the fact that RJ does have very good hostesses but their number is much fewer. No-one, especially at RJ, needs any reminder, I believe, that the story of success of most world airlines begins with friendly service aboard the aircraft. It will be highly appreciated by all of us who travel aboard RJ, and there are so many of us, if the airline's management would do something about improving the quality of service of its hostesses.

Sana Atiyeh
Amman.



Algeria - a 'very beautiful country'

SPURRED on by uncertain oil prices, Algeria's government has for the first time since independence been actively promoting the tourist industry. The most dramatic example of the government's desire to turn tourism into a leading, profitable industry is a plan to develop the country's accommodation capacity which will increase to 120,000 beds during the next twelve years. The government will invest around 19 billion dinars (\$4 billion) and some 2,000 more people per year will be employed as new hotels are built.



"A political decision has been made for the first time in the history of Algeria to do something for tourism," said Chafik Bourkaib, Air Algérie's commercial manager in Britain. The industry will develop through the Office Nationale Algérien Touristique (ONAT), the national tour operator, joint ventures with European partners and the Algerian private sector. Joint ventures (51 per cent Algerian, 49 per cent foreign) will not be taxed during the first five years. The foreign partner will be free to develop tourist sites in Algeria and promote the country in Europe. "The only obligation is to employ local people," Bourkaib said.

Air Algérie in collaboration with ONAT are prepared to offer free trips of potential foreign partners. A joint venture agreement has already been signed with the Canadian government and negotiations are in progress with the Swedish and Danish governments.

The Algerians want to ensure that the Sahara remains an unspoiled wilderness for adventure travellers. The current expansion plan is aimed at the cheap holiday resort coastal areas with an attractive climate, beaches, exotic food, and handicrafts. Algeria also hopes to attract visitors to its

ancient monuments such as the Roman remains of Timgad.

"The Algerian way of life is quite different from Europe — here are a lot of things to see and learn. Algeria is a very beautiful country," Bourkaib enthused. "Air Algérie will be cutting its fares by 30 per cent from October to make the country competitive with Moroccan, Tunisian, Spanish and Portuguese destinations."

The government has allowed the private sector to invest in the industry for the first time since 1962. Locals can build hotels, run small tour agencies (more than 30 private travel agencies have been authorised), and open restaurants and souvenir shops. According to Bourkaib, previous "entrepreneuristic" ventures in tourism failed due to a "hostile environment" — there were few hotels or tourist guides and an underdeveloped infrastructure.

Today the politicians are prepared to keep investing in tourism; they are not looking for immediate profits. "We don't want to sell our country — we want to develop it," according to Bourkaib. "We can't do this ourselves, so we are opening it up to European finance. After a generation there should be enough local people to run the industry" — The Middle East magazine.

Arab entrepreneurship refuses to be strangled in Gaza

The writer is a 19-year-old sophomore student at the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington D.C. She is currently visiting the occupied territories and has contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

By Laika Dajani

"GAZA, is the forgotten city of the world," says Farouk Sayid Abu Sharkh. Gaza is indeed appears "forgotten". There is a sense of timelessness in this cramped city, perhaps one could negatively call it a sense of stagnation. But beneath the dusty exterior there is life — appearances are often misleading.

The same could be said about Mr. Abu Sharkh himself. To the outward eye he is a pleasant, mild-mannered family man, but he is also a brilliant entrepreneur whose furniture factory in Gaza yields meticulous, hand-crafted as well as machine-made work.

Mr. Abu Sharkh was born in Cairo in 1950, where his family had fled from Palestine in 1948. They returned to settle in Gaza following Farouk's birth in 1950.

Before refuging, Farouk's father had been the mayor of Al Majdal (known as Ashkelon) from 1945 to 1948. In Gaza, he served as the director of the municipality from 1962 until the occupation of Gaza by the Israelis in 1967. While being an active member of the community, his father was also involved in raising his seven daughters and one son — Farouk Abu Sharkh.

In 1969 at the age of 19, Farouk went to Egypt to study architecture at Ain Shams University, finishing in 1976. He then returned to Gaza where he started an engineering office with a team of engineers and himself as architect. Opened in 1977, it was the first office in Gaza providing complete engineering and design services. Farouk and his team were involved in townplanning for Gaza as well as in water and roads projects.

One project they did for was for the development of a new Arab village near Beit Hanoun. It was a great achievement for the Arab community, because this was the first time that an Arab firm was awarded a contract for the design of an Arab village in



Farouk Sayid Abu Sharkh in his furniture factory in the Gaza Strip (Photo by Laika Dajani)

competition with Israeli firms. "I was sure that I would lose money because the Israeli office asked 7.5 per cent from the cost of the total project (as their commission) whereas my portion of total project is only 2 per cent," says Farouk. Despite this, he was determined to undertake the project.

Unfortunately, though awarding Farouk the contract, the Israeli occupation authorities never executed the project and a Jewish settlement was built on the same land in 1981.

As a sideline, Farouk in 1980 opened "a small furniture workshop for hobby not for business," with the main aim of making furniture for his home and office. The workshop had an area of 32 square metres and two carpenters who hand-made reproductions of Louis XV and Louis XVI furniture out of wood imported from Europe.

After one year, Farouk's work was gaining recognition. Due to customer demand, mainly friends, he employed another four trained carpenters from the local Jabalya refugee camp and the Gaza area to increase production.

Farouk entered the commercial market soon after and decided to develop a factory at the end of 1982 to cope with the growing

demand. He conducted a market survey for several months to decide what to produce. He bought machinery from Europe and began to build his factory of 1,000 square metres. At the end of 1983, the factory was in operation. Production was underway.

With this new factory Farouk could now produce standard mass production work as well as special hand crafted furniture. In 1985, he increased his 22 machines by another 4 and by 1987 another 1,000 square metres extension was under construction.

Farouk now employs 25 workers as well as 4 administrative personnel. But still he is not satisfied. Always thinking of the future, Farouk wants to develop a small training school for carpenters as part of his factory, to help overcome a shortage in this area and develop skills among Gazans.

Despite life under occupation, Farouk's business is doing relatively well. He sells 50 per cent of his produce in the West Bank, 30 per cent in Israel, and 20 per cent in the Gaza Strip. His success is due partly to his prices which are cheaper than those of similar Israeli firms because he imports his raw materials directly without middlemen. There are still problems however, as Israel's factories produce the same type of furniture and, in

addition, receive government subsidies and tax relief. Approximately 37 per cent of Farouk's profit goes to the Israeli government as tax.

"There is a good mentality (for industry) here but we don't have a good relationship with the rest of the world because we don't have a government to promote our products," says Farouk. "It's difficult to find raw materials, there is no big market for exports, and, in addition, the Arab countries refuse to take our products." Arab countries refuse to accept manufactured goods from the occupied territories because some raw materials may come from Israel. Although Farouk's raw materials come from Europe, they are "blacklisted," because they are imported through Israeli ports.

Cut off from the Arab World, Farouk hopes to expand his market to Europe and the United States. He believes that other Arab countries should encourage production in the occupied territories. For him, support of expanding industries by Arab countries is better than donation of money. The money is given with the best intentions but falls upon a closed market.

To solve the problem Arab countries have to accept manufactured products from the occu-

pied territories. Farouk proposes the development of an organisation that would import raw materials into the territories for distribution to Arab factories. This organisation would also market the goods, provide technical assistance, and ensure that only non-Israeli raw materials were used in production.

Economically, this organisation would also provide much needed financial assistance to the industries involved through a "delayed payment" system. A percentage of the value of sales of the final product would serve as payment for the raw materials. Because there is no civil government in the occupied territories, the creation of such an organisation would have to be initiated by private entrepreneurs as a non-profit organisation. To be accepted by the Israeli authorities, the initiative should come from an overseas entity established to promote industrial growth in the occupied territories.

Farouk says that many business projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been forced to close in recent years due to the lack of technical assistance and severe competition from Israeli firms. If an Israeli company, for example, wishes to purchase a machine worth \$40,000, the government will pay for the machine on behalf of the company, expecting repayment over a period of 5 years without interest. In Gaza and the West Bank, this sum must be paid in full and immediately by the Arab company.

Farouk has approached the Israeli authorities to ask for similar credit facilities as those received by Israeli firms but was refused on the basis that "We (the Israelis) may withdraw from Gaza next year and wouldn't be here to collect our money." After 20 years of occupation, that statement appears slightly ridiculous.

Life for Arab's living under Israeli military occupation is frustrating and humiliating. It is to Farouk Abu Sharkh's credit that he has pursued the development of his factory and turned it into a success despite obstacles from Israeli authorities as well as Arab countries. The steadfastness of those under occupation continues.

Marilyn Monroe: Hollywood's lost goddess

By Linda Deutsch
The Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD — On a crypt 33 at the tiny cemetery, a passing tourist scrutinises a scribed note tucked in a vase of flowers. The simple, anonymous message is read aloud: "Marilyn, we understand."

Every day, flowers arrive and a caravan of cars glide past the last resting place of Hollywood's lost goddess, Marilyn Monroe, at Westwood Memorial Park on the west side of Los Angeles.

It is 25 years this summer since her breathy half-whisper was hushed forever by what was termed a probable suicide. The story of the tragic beauty with the porcelain skin who became one of Hollywood's biggest legends ended at the age of 36 on Aug. 5, 1962.

Yet, today Marilyn's image is more vibrantly alive than ever.

"Marilyn Monroe is bigger than she ever was in her lifetime," says Randall Reese, co-author with Neal Hitchens of a new book, "The Unabridged Marilyn: Her Life from A to Z." "Marilyn is not just a person anymore. She's a legend. She's not just part of Hollywood. She is part of American culture," Reese said.

After her death, she became one of the most talked about and imitated stars — the rock singer Madonna has copied Marilyn's blond, sex kitten look. A musical biography even hit Broadway in 1983, but flopped.

But nowhere is her impact more evident than in this fabled town where she chased fame as young Norma Jeane Mortenson and found her dreams lined with heartbreak.

Amid the bright neon and garish billboards of Hollywood Boulevard, her face and form decorate storefronts, theatre facades and brochures advertising Movieland.

Bookstore shelves overflow with new volumes analysing the Monroe legend, and souvenir shops offer cologne, pillows, sheets, towels and even toothpicks. Hundreds of fans recently flocked to the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel where an exhibition of Marilyn memorabilia and photos drew some who knew her and many who wish they had.

In the courtyard of Man's Chinese theatre, with its famed celebrity handprints and footprints in concrete, visitors head directly for the spot where Marilyn left her impressions.

It was 1953, right after "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" established her status as a star. She appeared in 30 movies. But by the time she was fired from her last, "Something's Got to Give," right before her death, her career had plunged.

Miss Monroe's beginnings were humble. She was born out of wedlock in Los Angeles County General Hospital to Gladys Baker, a movie cutter. Her father was



Marilyn Monroe

a Danish immigrant named Edward Mortenson. Her mother had a nervous breakdown shortly after she was born and remained in and out of institutions.

Marilyn was shunted from one foster home to another, occasionally the victim of child abuse. She married an aircraft worker named James Dougherty at the age of 16 and they divorced after World War II.

She was an extremely attractive and sexy young woman. A photographer spotted her at the war plant where she worked and took pictures which led to a modelling career and eventually her first movie, "Scudda Hoo, Scudda Hay."

The Monroe hype became one of the greatest in Hollywood history. But with childlessness, failed love affairs and marriages — to baseball great Joe DiMaggio and the playwright Arthur Miller — fame did not bring happiness.

"Everybody is always tugging at you," she once said about fame. "They'd all like sort of a chunk of you. They kind of like to take pieces of you."

Tributes to the late star never stop at the hidden cemetery where she is buried. "They come from all over the world to see her. Some of them can barely pronounce her name," says Bill Pierce, whose family owns and operates Westwood Memorial Park.

On Aug. 5, a fan club called "Marilyn Remembered" plans a ceremony in the small chapel on the cemetery grounds. Pierce expects some familiar faces who have come over the years to pay tribute and touch the marble slab of her crypt.

"There's one guy who comes from Germany once a year," he says. "He comes and stands in front of the crypt for an hour or

two every day that he's here." A young woman used to kiss the crypt, leaving lipstick prints. But Pierce stopped the practice because the lipstick was being absorbed by the marble.

Dimaggio daily sent roses for 20 years, then stopped. But the flowers didn't. Pierce said one man from out of town sends a dozen white roses every month and others bring them in person.

"People leave flowers and plants. Sometimes they put a note on the crypt saying things like, 'Marilyn I love you. I'll always remember you.'"

"You know, there are a lot of other top celebrities who have passed away, and they don't get the same notoriety."

Looking for reasons for Marilyn Monroe's enduring legend is akin to searching for the real story behind her death. Everyone has a theory.

"There's something deeply touching about her," says author Reese. "There was this fragility about her that made people care. Here was this little orphan girl who had nothing and proved that in Hollywood anything can happen."

In her book, "Marilyn," Gloria Steinem writes: "One simple reason for her life story's endurance is the premature end of it. ...When the past dies, there is mourning, but when the future dies our imaginations are compelled to carry it on."

Soyabean is a staple in both East and West

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Anyone describing the versatility of the soybean soon ends up sounding like the pitchman on one of those "you-can-dice-it-you-can-dice-it" kitchen-gadget commercials so common on late-night television.

You can eat soybean sprouts, steamed green soybeans, roasted soy nuts, soy milk, soy sauce, fermented soybean paste, soy flour, or soybean curd — don't to the Chinese, tofu in Japan and elsewhere.

In processing soybean curd for food, you can press it, shred it, slice and marinate it, steam it, smoke, deep-fry, ferment, and salt-dry it. You can simmer it with meat, vegetables, and noodles in sukiyaki, as the Japanese do, or combine any of the preparatory processes, as the Chinese do.

You can take freshly harvested soybeans to the processing plant and extract the oil, which goes into foods such as margarine, mayonnaise, shortening, and salad dressing. You can ship the rest of the bean to feedlots and poultry producers to feed animals that themselves will eventually end up as food in supermarket freezers.

Or you can use the soybean as an industrial commodity. Soybean oil can be an ingredient of glycerine, soft soaps, paint, linoleum, varnishes, enamel, waterproof goods, oilcloth, rubber substitutes, artificial petroleum, and ink. Soybean meal has been used to make a low-cost plywood adhesive. You can even squeeze a bushel of beans into the manufacture of a car; Henry Ford once startled onlookers by attacking an automobile body made of soybean-based plastic with an ax to demonstrate its resilience.

Clearly, as Fred Hapgood demonstrates in the July National Geographic, the soybean is not just another pretty plant.

Farmers in the eastern half of northern China started planting the black or brown seeds of a wild recombent vine about 3,000 years ago. At first the results were poor; plants that lie on the ground are hard to cultivate, and wild soybean seeds are tiny, hard, and, unless properly prepared, indigestible.

But the farmers persevered, and evidence suggests that by 1100 B.C. the soybean had been taught to grow straight up and bear larger, more useful seeds. Over the next several hundred years, the soybean spread throughout China to become a staple. It had high food value,

was easy to grow, and had that magic versatility.

Soybeans soon spread to Japan, but it wasn't until between 500 and 1000 A.D., when the Japanese upper classes became slavish Sinophiles and imported many aspects of Chinese culture, that tofu became a major factor in Japanese cuisine.

Not until after World War II did the soybean become important in the United States. By then China, devastated by war and racked by revolution, could no longer maintain its role as the major supplier of soybeans to the world market.

More important, Hapgood writes, postwar affluence sent the developed world on a binge of meat-eating, and traditional sources of protein in livestock feed were inadequate. The high food value of the soybean — high in protein, vitamins, and digestibility, but low in starch, fat, and cholesterol — made it a natural candidate.

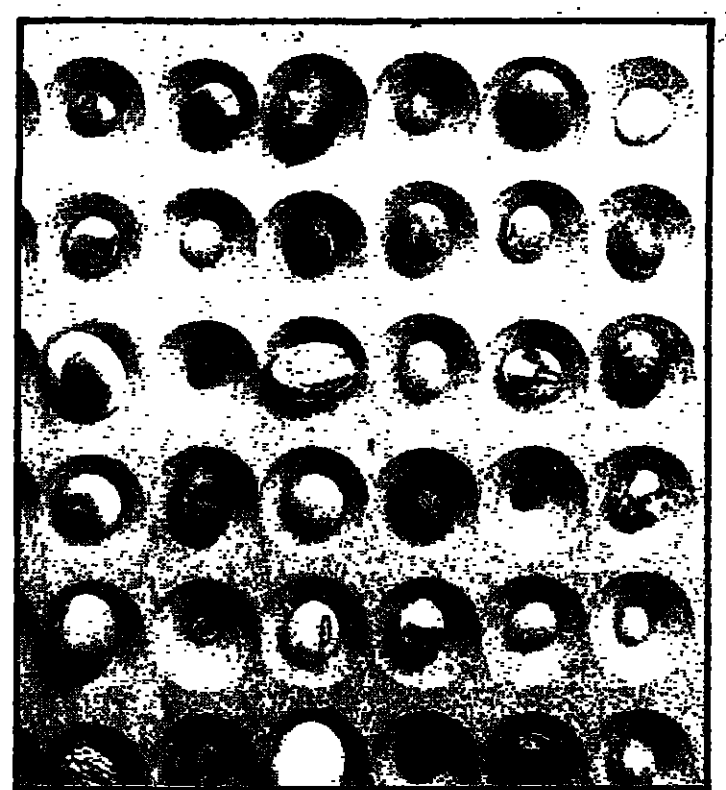
Soybean production took off. Between 1945 and 1985, the U.S. soybean harvest increased in

volume 11 times, and the bean became the farmer's most important cash crop and the country's leading agricultural export. In 1985, the United States exported \$3.7 billion worth of soybeans.

Inevitably problems arose. The ease with which soybeans could be grown meant that every acre of marginal ground could be devoted to them.

Topsoil washed away from ground once covered by trees, bush, and pasture. One Tennessee soybean grower, much of whose soil ended up in the Mississippi River, told Hapgood, "This is the most eroded county in the state right here."

The rise in the price of the dollar in the early 1980s also affected American farmers. Because this pushed up the price of the soybean in foreign markets, where half the harvest had been sold, foreign buyers began to turn elsewhere, especially to South America. Brazil now earns nearly as much from soybeans as from coffee. U.S. soybeans prices now are depressed, below cost for many farmers.



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Egypt, Madagascar break All Africa Games women's swimming records

NAIROBI (R) — Madagascar and Egypt established new All Africa Games swimming records for the women's 200 metres breaststroke and the men's 4x200 metres freestyle relay in Nairobi on Monday, according to provisional timings.

Hamanana Ratsifandri of Madagascar swam the 200 metres breaststroke in two minutes 58.94 seconds, beating the previous games record of 3.00.62, but failing to break the overall African record of 2.52.96 in a preliminary heat.

Handia Mohamdi of Algeria also broke the old games record with a time of 2.59.53 when she came second in the same race. Meanwhile, Egypt's 4x200 metres freestyle relay team established a new All Africa Games record of eight minutes 16.02 seconds, knocking nine seconds off the previous record of 8.25.23.

However, Nadim Aiman.

Youssef Mohnad, Ameer Amin and Ali Hossam were still 14 seconds short of the current African record of eight minutes 2.63 seconds.

The record breakers were expected to improve further on their performance in the finals of their events after Monday.

Long distance running

Meanwhile Kenyan, Ethiopian and Tanzanian athletes are gearing up for an enthralling battle for medals in the prestige long-distance running events that will be the highlight of the games athletics competition.

The 5,000 metres, 10,000

metres and marathon events, where African athletes are traditionally strong, have attracted a powerful field from nations like Ethiopia, Tanzania and Kenya which have in the past provided some of the world's greatest runners.

"Whoever wins in any of these events will know that he has had a tough competition," Kenyan coach and former 5,000 metres star Kipchoge Keino said.

The athletics events begin on Friday. In the absence of Moroccan 5,000 metres world record holder Said Aouita, whose country withdrew from the games over a political dispute, Kenya is fielding 22-year-old John Ngugi, twice world cross-country champion.

He has run a best time this year of 13 minutes 30.7 seconds. This compares with Aouita's recently established though unratified record of 12.58.39.

But Ngugi and his 5,000 metres

teammate Peter Koech face tough competition from Ethiopian champion Wodajo Bulti and 19-year-old Tanzanian Juma Mnyampanda who, his coach Herman Ndisa says, has an excellent chance for a gold.

Tanzania also has strength and depth in the 10,000 metres event, where their powerful trio including Mnyampanda is headed by veteran squad captain, Juma Ikangaa, 27. The third member is 20-year-old Gidamis Shahanga, who has run under 28 minutes.

But Portuguese Fernando Mamede's astonishing 10,000 metres 1984 world record of 27.13.81 will probably remain intact.

Other medal prospects in the 10,000 are Ethiopian Bulti, his 26-year-old compatriot Haji Bultula and Kenyans Paul Kipkoech, Some Muge and Gabriel Kamau.

Atletico chief shakes up Spanish soccer

MADRID (R) — Atletico Madrid's new president Jesus Gil has burst onto the Spanish soccer scene with supreme confidence and all the subtlety of a bull in a China shop.

Dubbed "Hurricane" Gil by the local press, he is big-spending, fast talking and not afraid to raise the eyebrows of the sporting authorities.

A 54-year-old property magnate who started out as a used car dealer, Gil is bent on working the same rags-to-riches miracle on an ailing football club. Always in the shadow of their giant neighbours Real Madrid, the club ended last season half way down the First Division, runners up in the Spanish Cup, and failed to secure a place in Europe.

On top of that Atletico were crippled with debts running to 1.2 billion pesetas (\$9.6 million) when Gil beat off their rivals to win the club's presidential elections in June.

"I want to make Atletico a serious, solvent and respected club," Gil told Reuters in an interview at the plush offices of his club financiero real estate

business. "I am a liberal dictator in business matters. Once a business decides to do something it must be inflexible."

He has swept away the old guard and bought seven new players, including Portuguese striker Paulo Futre from European Cup winners Porto for a reported 415 million pesetas (\$3 million). Lopez Ufarte from Real Sociedad, and the feared Andoni Goikoetxea from Bilbao.

He has also brought in former Argentine national coach Luis Menotti.

During the flurry of signings the Spanish Football League became worried Atletico were too indebted to spend so much.

Then, when Gil explained he had used his own money, the league complained that if the players did not belong to the club they could walk out on it whenever they wanted.

Gil said they are a gift to the club. "If (the investment) loses then I lose, if it works, then the club gains."

Other investment plans in what he calls "formula Gil" are for a casino at the club stadium and for

a "sports city" on the outskirts of Madrid.

Gil denies suggestions he is merely using Atletico as a springboard for his business ambitions.

"I have stood by for five years and watched this club go to ruin and longed to do something about it," he said.

He blames Atletico's problems until now on bad management, not least by former president Vicente Calderon who died last March, and on "amiguismo" — friends helping friends.

"Spanish football in general has been badly managed."

This sort of comment, including a suggestion the league had allowed doctored audits of clubs which earned him a rebuke from the sports council, have brought him a flood of publicity, not all of it favourable.

Newspapers have recalled the 18 months he spent in jail after a property he was promoting collapsed in 1969, killing 53 people.

The fact people are talking about this now shows one thing, Gil said. "In Spain the national character is to say, if you prosper, people think you got there through robbery or corruption."

Both teams fielded the players they will use in next week's Pan-American Games.

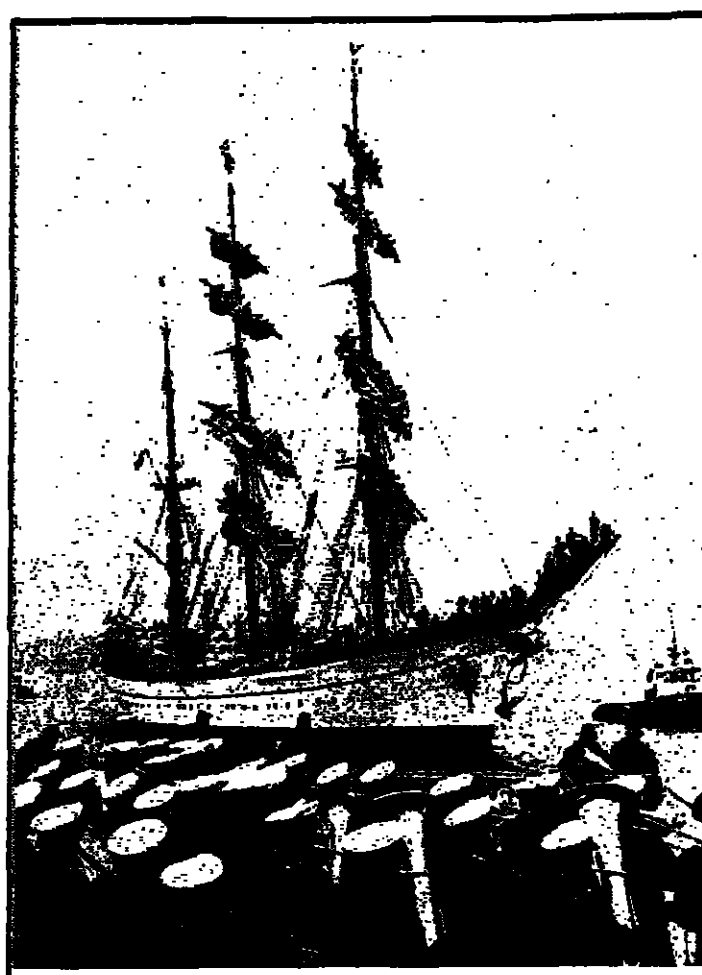
Mexico beats Argentina in soccer exhibition

SAN JOSE, California (R) — The Mexican national soccer team scored two first-half goals on free kicks and ran away with the game in the second half to beat Argentina 3-0 in an exhibition match Sunday.

Cheered on by a wildly partisan crowd of 15,104, Mexico scored through headers by Eduardo de la Torre in the first minute and again through captain Fernando Quirarte in the 34th minute to take a 2-0 lead. Benjamin Galindo set up both goals with precise free kicks.

After weathering some Argentine pressure in the second half, Mexico scored again when World Cup defender Raul Servino centred from the right wing and Sergio Lira volleyed home from four metres.

Both teams fielded the players they will use in next week's Pan-American Games.



'HUMAN SAILS': W.German ageing naval training ship Gorch Fock sets sail from her home port of Kiel on an 11-month circumnavigation of the globe with a regular crew of 76 and 240 trainees. Built in 1938, the three-mast sailing vessel has logged 79 training missions and considered one of the fastest ships under sail (Photo DaD/dpa)

Graf leads W. Germany to Federation Cup triumph

WEST VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Steffi Graf has staked her claim as the next dominant player in women's tennis.

Graf ripped Chris Evert 6-2, 6-1 in a singles match, then combined with Claudia Kohde-Kilsch for a 1-6, 7-5, 6-4 victory in the deciding doubles match Sunday to give West Germany to its first Federation Cup championship with a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over the United States.

The defending champion Americans, minus injured Martina Navratilova, the world's top-ranked player, had cruised into the finals with four easy victories and jumped ahead in the first singles match as Pam Shriver downed Kohde-Kilsch 6-0, 7-6.

But Graf then took matters into her own hands.

"I was going for the shots in the singles," Graf said. "It was the best match I had the whole week."

Graf and Kohde-Kilsch were two games away from losing the doubles to Shriver and Evert — a last-minute replacement for Navratilova on the world's top doubles pairing — but refused to give up.

"It was a match made in heaven," said Shriver of the excitement generated by the three-set doubles. "It's possibly the most dramatic doubles match I've



Graf... dominates centre court

ever played, and I've played a lot of them."

The Americans, seeded first, won the first set easily and took the first four games of the second set, but suddenly the momentum swung the other way.

Evert, who had only 30 minutes' rest after the singles, seemed to tire and Graf kept growing stronger, her blazing forehand complementing the reach of Kohde-Kilsch at the net.

"It's disappointing for the team to lose when you're within an inch of winning," Evert said. "Nobody choked, nobody got nervous. They just lifted their game a notch."

The West Germans rallied to

League threatens legal action over sponsorship

LONDON (AP) — English soccer officials said Monday they were considering legal action following the sudden withdrawal of the sponsors of the country's 92-club, Four-Division football league.

The decision by the owners of the British National Newspaper, Today, to pull out of the second year of a two-year deal left the league without an expected 1 million-pound (\$1.60 million) cash injection into its centenary season, beginning in two weeks.

A statement by the paper said the league had failed to live up to its side of the agreement.

"It came like a bombshell," league secretary Graham Kelly said of the announcement by Publishers News International, owned by Australian press magnate, Rupert Murdoch. "The immediate assumption must be that... they will not be offering any prize money this season. It couldn't have happened at a worse time. We will be taking legal advice."

The withdrawal of the sponsors came just days before the league celebrates its centenary with a match against a rest-of-the-world selection at Wembley Stadium on Aug. 8.

With the new season so close, prospects of a new sponsor looked grim but Kelly said the matter would not be allowed to

rest. "As far as we are concerned, we have an agreement for two years which has another year to run," Kelly said. "If they want to dispute it we will have to look at the legal position. It is very surprising they should seek to do this so near to the new season."

Last season, the sponsors donated £50,000 (\$80,000) to the First Division champions, £25,000 (\$40,000) to the Second Division champions and £12,500 (\$20,000) each to the winners of the third and fourth divisions.

In addition, the 22 First Division clubs shared equally £350,000 (\$560,000), with smaller chunks of revenue going to the lower division teams.

The increased revenue helped improve morale in the league and led to an overall standard of play that boosted attendances for the season by more than one million spectators.

The editor of Today, David Montgomery, said that since the end of March, News U.K. — the previous owners of the paper — had complained about the league's failure to live up to its side of the agreement.

He said the league had "failed to get the promised sponsorship for Today across on television and they failed to get the sponsor mentioned in other publications as the agreement required."

Soccer fans arrested for hooliganism in Yugoslavia

SPLIT, Yugoslavia (AP) — Violent brawls broke out between fans of Hajduk of Split and Red Star of Belgrade after Sunday's opening round match in the Yugoslav National Soccer League, witnesses said.

Two cars, one from Belgrade, Serbia, and the other from Split, Croatia, were smashed during the clashes and at least ten fans were arrested, Belgrade newspapers reported Monday.

The match played in this central Adriatic town ended in a 2-2 draw.

The Politika Daily said one Hajduk and seven Red Star supporters were arrested during the match for singing "songs with abusive contents."

The Vremeje Novosti newspaper and the witnesses said police had to intervene inside and outside the soccer ground to stop the brawls after which at least another two Red Star fans were detained. But the exact number of injuries and arrests was not known.

Serbs and Croats have been divided by bitter ethnic feuds for centuries.

South Koreans brace for culture clash at Olympics

SEOUL (R) — With western cookbook at the ready, housewife Yoon Yong-Ja is training for the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Her family is one of 500 selected as hosts for foreign visitors to the games and 53-year-old Yoon is learning to cook western dishes in preparation.

"We want to show foreigners a taste of Korean etiquette," says Kim Byung-Jun, an organizer of the Olympics home-stay programme.

South Koreans are eager their country should create a good impression and host families are being instructed on how to keep culture clashes to a minimum.

They are being warned to expect blind reactions from guests facing typical Korean cuisine for the first time, with its fiery kimchi (pickled cabbage) served at every meal including breakfast, the ubiquitous stringy dried squid and the odd trap for the squeamish such as live octopus.

"In Korea, when I visit someone's house and the host prepares the food, even if it does not taste good, I will say it is delicious and eat a lot," said Kim.

"Foreigners tend to be frank. If they don't like the food, they won't eat it."

Kim and his staff combed the capital for homes that would reflect South Korea's prosperity. Most are distinctly upper crust — the homes of business managers, professors, army officers, doctors or lawyers.

"We'll tell them to be kind and hospitable, but not excessively so," says Kim.

"Foreigners don't like to share their spoon and fork, so our hosts must set a separate place for their

guests at the table."

They will also have to foot the bill for their guests' international phone calls — without expecting anything in return, he adds.

Kim and his staff ran a similar programme during the Asian Games in Seoul last year and learnt some valuable lessons.

Chung Eun-Jung, 26, whose family were hosts for the Asian Games last autumn, recalls with a shudder the reaction of her guest when offered the best bed in the house.

The American woman visitor was horrified at the prospect of having nothing between her and the wooden floor but a thin cotton mat — even if it did have a pretty pink floral pattern.

Kim said he would urge his Olympic hosts to offer their guests the thicker mats Koreans sleep on in winter.

The Chung family, not discouraged by their 1986 experience, plan to have an Olympic guest next year but are braced for the inevitable contretemps.

"My father was appalled the first time our American guest greeted him in Korean," Chung said.

"Her pronunciation was fine.

But, with hands on hips, she shifted her weight and blurted out cheerfully 'anyong haseyo?' (how are you?). Eventually we taught her to bow deeply," Chung said.

Chung admits, however, that foreigners often adjust quickly to Korean ways.

"At first, our guest couldn't understand why we ate big breakfasts of rice, kimchi, soup and side dishes. When we prepared a light dinner, as we usually do, our guest was ravenously hungry the

next morning," Chung said.

The guest soon got into the habit of eating Korean-style breakfasts with the family.

Not all the surprises are unpleasant for foreign visitors.

When 55-year-old Elizabeth Ann Richards stayed with a Korean family during the Asian Games, she was taken aback by the western-style decor.

"I didn't expect chintz-covered furniture. I thought they would have low tables so I'd have to sit on the floor," she said.

For 29-year-old American Randy Green, the main challenge during his stay in a Seoul home was adjusting to the easy-going Korean approach to privacy.

"Koreans would go through my belongings. I came home one day and my room had been cleaned, but also reorganised," he said.

He complained but just got blank stares. "Koreans just share their things," he adds.

"People also visited my room frequently, fearful that when I was there alone, I'd be bored or lonely," said Green.

He had to tell them repeatedly that he preferred to be alone sometimes.

There is little the home-stay organisers can do, however, to prevent people from having some innocent fun at their guests' expense.

Kim Seok, a 27-year-old who looked after a Frenchman during the Asian Games, fed his guest a traditional Korean meal without telling him what was in it.

When he said it was delicious, I told him it was dog," Kim said. "Then he said it was barbarous... but it still tasted good."

Lendl crushes Gilbert to win D.C. Classic

WASHINGTON (R) — Top seed Ivan Lendl has crushed fourth-seeded Brad Gilbert 6-1, 6-0 in just 56 minutes to win the \$293,000 D.C. Classic Men's Tennis Tournament.

Lendl, who has never lost to Gilbert in 12 meetings, dominated the 25-year-old American with a devastating first serve and precise passing shots throughout the match.

Gilbert, ranked 17th in the world, was not as successful with his serve and volley game against the top-ranked Czechoslovak as he was in his semifinal upset of West German Boris Becker.

Lendl won 15 of the first 18 points. Gilbert's frustration began when he double-faulted on game point in the first game and he went on to win his serve only once in the entire match.

Lendl faced three break points, all of which he saved by hitting a big first serve. The Czechoslovak said his strategy was never to give Gilbert a chance to find his rhythm.

"I just tried to win my serve because if I did that I knew I would win the match," said Lendl, who collected \$39,440 for his victory.

"I knew exactly what he was thinking and trying to do out there, but I also knew what to do to win every point. I knew after the first three points that I would win."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Brazilian horse wins Grand Prix

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's Bowling, ridden by Juvenal Silva, broke from the pack to win the Brazilian Grand Prix Horse Race on Sunday with Larabee of Argentina in second. Bowling placed second in last year's 2,400-metre (7,200-foot) Grand Prix. Larabee, ridden by Brazilian jockey Goncalo de Almeida, finished second in the close race with Brazil's Bretnier, ridden by Brazilian jockey J.F. Reis, in third. Among the foreign horses competing were Cabanas, Explorador and Angel Junior from Peru, Chile's Monroe and Uruguay's Blullemail. Nineteen horses participated in the event.

Racer enters 2 races, picks up win

FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (AP) — Belgian auto racer Eric van Der Poele competed in two races in different countries during the weekend, and it paid off for him. Van Der Poele teamed with compatriots Jean Michel Martin and Didier Theys to win the 24 hours of Francorchamps endurance race for touring cars Sunday. He then extended his lead in the West German championship for touring cars by finishing third in Wunstorf. The racer left the wheel of his BMW M3 to Martin and Theys to finish the 24-hour race early Sunday, drove to a nearby airport and was flown to Wunstorf, some 210 miles (338 kilometres) away. He did not win, but was fit enough to finish third behind West German teammates Harald Grohs and Marc Hessel in the afternoon race. More importantly, he kept his nearest challenger, West German Manuel Reuter, driving a Ford Sierra, in fourth place and extended his lead to eight points in the West German Championship.

Adorjan wins speedway cup event

MISKOLC, Hungary (R) — Hungary's Zoltan Adorjan scored a home win in the World Individual Champions' Cup on Sunday, beating Italian Armando Castagna on a tie break after they had both scored 12 points. But Adorjan's form slipped in the 10th international Grand Prix which followed. He finished third behind Antonin Kasper of Czechoslovakia and West German Gerd Riss.

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS	1 Winged stinger	6 — code	10 Seaweed extract	14 Talented	15 Nautical word	16 Second bird	17 Paderewski's instrument	18 Fixed amount	20 Notable	21 Kept	22 Summer drinks	23 Dried plant	24 Dr. letter	25 Gymnastic maneuver	26 Chameleon	28 Concerning	29 Touch, lovingly	30 The guru	31 Portuguese navigator	32 Coral island	34 Slip on ice	35 History of old films	36 Aboveboard	37 Mother of	38 Castor	39 Terminated	40 Breard or	41 Kind of beam	42 — about	43 Taunt	44 Divide	45 Fall flowers	46 Oil acronym	47 Wyo. range	48 South	49 Spooky	50 Exercise	51 Sovereignty	52 Coral and Red	53 Small valleys	54 Cleopatra's river	55 Relative of sarcasm	56 Little bird	57 Leaves out	58 Detecting device	59 Climax	60 Willy	61 Kinney's	62 Dugout shelter	63 Metal refuse	64 Pseudonyms	65 Tree						
DOWN	1 Jokers	2 Dugout shelter	3 Metal refuse	4 Pseudonyms	5 Tree	6 Kinney's	7 Bring up	8 Sanately	9 Inclined	10 Show feeling	11 TV adjunct	12 Noblemen	13 Before: pref.	14 Hollow stem	15 Artistic call	16 Rickenbacker and the Red Baron	17 Dorothy	18 Hamill e.g.	19 Move hurriedly	20 Shell spot	21 Drama of a kind	22 Relative of sarcasm	23 Little bird	24 Leaves out	25 Detecting device	26 Climax	27 Willy	28 Kinney's	29 Dugout shelter	30 Metal refuse	31 Pseudonyms	32 Tree	33 Bring up	34 Sanately	35 Inclined	36 Show feeling	37 TV adjunct	38 Noblemen	39 Before: pref.	40 Hollow stem	41 Artistic call	42 Rickenbacker and the Red Baron	43 Dorothy	44 Hamill e.g.	45 Move hurriedly	46 Shell spot	47 Drama of a kind	48 Relative of sarcasm	49 Little bird	50 Leaves out	51 Detecting device	52 Climax	53 Willy	54 Kinney's	55 Dugout shelter	56 Metal refuse	57 Pseudonyms	58 Tree

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Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 675571

1) **9½ WEEKS**

2) **POLICE ACADEMY 4**

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAGHADAN** Tel: 622198

HARD TASK

Performances 12:15, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15

مكتبة الامم

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Monday.

One Sterling	1.5930/40	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3266/71	Canadian dollar
	1.8595/8605	West German marks
	2.0930/40	Dutch guilders
	1.5395/5404	Swiss francs
	38.54/57	Belgian francs
	6.1850/1900	French francs
	1347/1348	Italian lira
	150.00/10	Japanese yen
	6.4825/75	Swedish crowns
	6.790/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.0530/0600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	472.50/473.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Concern about escalating tension in the Gulf weighed on U.K. stock market sentiment for most of the session, dealers said. Wall Street's brisk selloff at Monday's opening on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Monday.

By 1300 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 27.9 points to 2,333 and fell to 2,323.9 within nine minutes of the 1330 GMT Wall Street opening. Dealers stressed, however, that volume was light. Tokyo's sharply lower overnight close on the rising crude oil price was another negative factor in a London market already reflecting concern over the U.K. economy and digesting two somewhat pessimistic brokers' circulars published last Friday. Energy and mining related issues were the only shares to show consistent gains. Oils were boosted by the rise of over one dollar in North Sea crude prices while minings soared on the back of a near \$10 per ounce increase in the gold bullion price. But the prospects of higher fuel charges and the chances of international political upheaval caused by further hostilities in the Gulf depressed the wider market, dealers said. Iran's threats against the U.S. after Iranian riot deaths in Mecca were at the root of the increases in the gold and oil prices.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make it your mission today to make as many new contacts and acquaintances as possible. If you can, sidestep a legal matter which could have adverse effects.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A meeting with an outside business contact to work out deals, etc., will be a great boon to your future success.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try to use your creative side to lighten up your daily routines. If you wish, you can delight an important co-worker.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Buy a fine gift for your mate, and make time to visit relatives together, preferably in the afternoon.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) This is a banner evening for entertaining interesting persons at your home and showing your skill as a host.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Let your allies know how much you appreciate them, but be short and succinct. Attend a group affair this evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Have a private discussion with your kin and find out what's expected of you. Use your social skills more effectively.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Avoid a person who has an eye on your assets and could cause trouble — possibly a broker of some kind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Contact the most influential and highly principled person you know for help with one of your private interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Let yourself go! It's time to get out of that rut you've been in for so long and unwind — get a new lease on life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You have been angry with your mate for some time. Quietly discuss it tonight and restore harmony.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Look to the experience of older friends to make your group amusements much more enjoyable.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Look around your house for an easy project which will not only beautify it, but add to the value as well.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have tremendous beauty, so be careful not to spoil him or her. While still young, teach your progeny that "beauty is only skin deep," and the importance of being useful and self-sufficient. Your child may have that restless, star-struck tendency.

ECASST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: After a somewhat slow and trying day, you will be imbued with vitality and ambition. Use this energy to make up for lost time and catch up on your work.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Newcomers may present you with some fine ideas. Jot them down, as your memory is crowded and you may forget.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A practical, but progressive attitude can show you new ways to add to your assets. Get plenty of rest tonight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't hesitate to ask your friends for assistance in attaining your goals. Handle neglected correspondence.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Even if you're busy, take care of that important property matter. Be cooperative with co-workers.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A winning smile today will help you out more than you can imagine. Keep a positive outlook, since success is mostly mental.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Dream up a new way to make your family happy and content. Don't neglect your social obligations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A group activity with some friends at any time today would help your mood, but don't discuss politics or religion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Any public work you can do would be great for your self-esteem and would also impress the community.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Some newcomers can help you grow. A journey may reveal a desirable living alternative. Drive carefully.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Listen to your mate's suggestions; they could make you both more happy. The time is right for business success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you've been putting off important correspondence, handle it now. The right words could bring great results.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) An inspired idea of yours should be brought to the attention of superiors. Their backing can make it a great success.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have the "wander lust," a wonderful imagination and the ability to make friends easily. Foreign languages, useful for traveling, are a must for your progeny. He or she will attract many important and dynamic personalities during his or her life.

How world money could be reformed

LONDON — There is a profound temperamental difference between those who blame the world's ills on some or other aspect of money — for example the billions of dollars moving across the exchanges every day or the fear of an international banking collapse — and those who look at the "real forces" of political economy.

But even those of us in the second camp need to look at the world money game to make sure that it does not aggravate or magnify the real maladjustments or cause wrong signals to be transmitted.

Examples of where the money and exchange rate systems failed to give the right warnings are many.

They include the concerted over-expansion of the main industrial economies in 1971-73 (Nixon-Heath era) which terminated in an explosion of oil and commodity prices, and inaugurated a decade and a half of "stagflation," the excessive use of bank finance to recycle the OPEC surpluses and to finance government borrowing in developing countries in the 1970s; the U.S. budget deficits financed by increasingly precarious overseas borrowing in the 1980s; monetary or fiscal overkill at various times in the 1980s, especially in West Germany and Japan; and the large swings in the dollar in the last few years.

Constructing a system which would have provided better signals on even one or two of these occasions will be neither intellectually nor politically easy.

It would also be best to start from the key elements which now exist: that is three main world currencies, the dollar, the mark, and the yen, to which the other developed countries are attached in varying degrees.

The reason why France and Britain are so anxious to keep the Group of Five in existence as a closed club apart from the summit seven (which includes Italy and Canada) is plain. The seven are too large a group for intimate negotiations, and it will be all too tempting for the U.S., Germany and Japan to come together as an informal inner directorate.

But this inner directorate will develop in any case. Rather than fight a losing battle against it Britain and France should see their role as contributing to the pool of workable ideas, which are in none too plentiful supply.

For the foreseeable future the U.S., Japanese and German governments will be unwilling either to practise benign neglect towards their exchange rates or agree to a permanently fixed relationship. The arrangement may be described either as managed floating or as wide, movable (and unpublished) target zones.

The reality is one of intense mutual surveillance with temporary and half-spelt-out understandings, often reflecting fear rather than positive agreement on an exchange rate pattern.

What is most clearly lacking is any common understanding of the domestic monetary policies required to back up any currency understandings among the big three; and the role if any of fiscal policy. The IMF indicators are too many and too capable of alternative interpretation to provide a focus for cooperation.

Among economists there has been a gradual, and still controversial, shift towards seeing fiscal rather than exchange rate policy as the clue to the balance of payments.

This is an aspect of the simple identity that a country's current payments deficit (if it has one) is the difference between domestic

investment and domestic savings.

To narrow this gap, the savings-investment gap has also to be narrowed. The main policy instrument will be bringing the budget into better balance. But governments can also help by removing tax inducements to borrowing and increasing incentives to savings.

The same thing applies the other way round to countries which are worried (or are forced by their partners to worry) about excessive current surpluses. They have to unbalance their budgets and/or encourage domestic borrowing and remove inducements to savings.

Professor James Meade has pointed out that if governments are to adopt wealth objectives, which included overseas assets in the definition of wealth, in place of balance of payments objectives, they would not need to agree with each other on what these objectives should be.

Be that as it may, the primary instrument of either a payments or a wealth objective would be fiscal policy.

There can be an advantage to a deficit country in being able to supplement fiscal tightening, with exchange rate depreciation, to make it more profitable to switch freed resources into exports and reduce the likelihood of recession. But this flexibility has to be set against the greater stability and predictability of the exchange rate in a wider monetary union.

The problem with the big three system of the dollar, yen and mark (or of a G5 or G7 system) is that it lacks an anchor. Something more than agreed exchange rates between the three is required if the world is not to suffer from an inflationary or deflationary bias.

The fact has to be faced that

targeting nominal (or real) GDP depends heavily on forecasting and estimation and is far removed from the prices reported daily in the market place. At least as a check, it would be worth trying to stabilise — inside a broad band — some index of world commodity prices.

During a time when the terms of trade of commodity production have been falling relative to manufactured goods and services, a stable commodity index would not guarantee overall price stability. But it would prevent an inflationary take-off.

A commodity price objective would work with the grain in many ways. It would tie up with the desire of some U.S. Federal Reserve members to find a superior lodestar to the monetary aggregates.

Moreover, it would be a positive advantage if countries followed a commodity price index denominated in their own currency. For this would have a restrictive influence on countries with weak currencies such as the dollar, in terms of which commodity prices have risen most this year, and an expansionary bias in the hard currency yen and mark areas where commodity prices have risen least.

For national monetary policies, commodity prices are best used as a policy indicator, until we are far more sure of our ground. But when it comes to international currency units such as the SDR or the ECU one might go further and advocate a definite commodity standard.

There would then be a point in national governments trying to stabilise their currencies against the SDR or ECU, as a guarantee of anti-inflationary virtue which it would not be today — Financial Times news feature.

Portugal cuts red tape to draw investors

LISBON — After a sluggish 1986, European Community (EC) partners have accelerated the flow of investment in industry, tourism, services, commerce and the stock market in Portugal.

EC, European Free Trade Area (EFTA) and non-European investors are now pumping money into Portugal, encouraged by liberalisation which abolished much of the red tape which scared off many would-be investors, and by the passion for quick proceedings of Dr. Raquel Ferreira, head of the Foreign Investment Institute — a body created in 1976 to authorise, reject or control foreign investors.

The no-nonsense Dr. Ferreira has rejected the idea that bureaucrats may not only study foreign investment projects but also alter them at will to protect what the bureaucracy sees as Portugal's interests. This attitude discouraged so much investment that Portugal built up foreign investment stock of only Esc113 billion (\$800 million) over more than a generation — small pickings for a country which claimed to be open to foreign investment.

New direct investment of Esc17 billion in the first five months of 1987 shows that the turning point has come. The figure is double the Esc8.5 billion registered in January-May 1986. Britain, with heavy investment in tourism projects or tourist-related enterprises, leads the list of new direct investment, with a total of Esc5.9 billion — more than double its 1986 figures.

Next comes Spain. One of the most modest foreign investors in Portugal it is now, as an EC partner, the most avid seeker of opportunities with more than 300 companies moving into wholesale, services, manufacturing and food-processing. Spanish investment grew by 500 per cent, compared with January-May 1986, to Esc4.6 billion, against Esc900 million in 1986.

Many Portuguese are unnerved by this mushroom growth, fearing that they will be swamped by their neighbour's aggressive competition and increasingly streamlined manufacturing methods. Innocent of the ways of other European businesses, many Portuguese fear the mini-invasion is due to some Hispanic master-plan to acquire Portugal lock, stock and computer terminal, rather than the perception of disparate Spanish businessmen that Portuguese wages are less

than half those of Spain, that Portugal offers an extra 10 million consumers and that machine parts or soups produced in Portugal get to their market as easily from the West as from the east side of the frontier with Spain.

On the Lisbon stock market, Spaniards are joining British institutions in the search for bargains, perceiving the market as a fast growing if slightly unsophisticated outlet. West German investors are briskly acquiring existing textile or footwear companies and moving into wholesale trade. Their investment has trebled compared with 1986 to Esc1.6 billion.

French, Belgian, Dutch and Italian investment has also grown markedly, particularly Belgian investment, which rose from Esc198 million in January-May 1986 to Esc344 million this year. EFTA investors are more modest but growing: Austrian investment, non-existent in 1986, totalled Esc6.35 million by May; Finnish investment leapt from Esc3 million last year to Esc14 million; Norwegian investment grew from Esc27 million to Esc409 million; Swedish investment held firm; Swiss investment dropped slightly.

Outside Europe, the U.S. which put about \$30 million into Portugal in 1984-85 in the initial capital of three U.S. banks — Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Citibank and Chase Manhattan — was less gung-ho in 1986-87, apparently still unconvinced of the virtues of Portugal as an outlet for medium-size U.S. enterprises.

The Japanese too have been hard to persuade, moved as they are by the buying power of domestic markets. However, their investment picked up from 1986 to 1987 from Esc73 million to Esc108 million and the arrival of a Sumitomo Bank representative office, which immediately signed a protocol to promote Japanese investment, may live up to the scene.

Of direct foreign investment this year, Esc3.6 billion and 256 projects created new companies, Esc10.7 billion and 137 projects went into existing companies, and Esc2.36 billion and 56 projects were acquisitions. This is three times as much for new companies, more than twice as much for existing ones and about the same for acquisitions as 1986.

— Financial Times news feature.

Japanese banks, businessmen oppose \$20 billion aid plan

TOKYO (R) — Japan's much-heralded plan to funnel \$20 billion to developing nations over the next three years is running into opposition from the banks and businessmen who are being asked to put up much of the money.

Business leaders said they are reluctant to fork over more money to developing countries without firm assurances that it will be repaid.

The Japanese plan, unveiled by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone at the summit meeting of leading industrial democracies in June, is designed to still criticism of Japan's huge trade surplus by recycling part of the money to the Third World.

Government and industry are supposed to cooperate in the recycling process, but even some government officials admit that many details of the programme have yet to be worked out.

Mr. Nakasone appears to be playing with other people's money, without telling them what he plans, Bank of Tokyo Chairman Yusei Kashiwagi said.

Bankers fear that they will be asked to cover much of the costs of the plan without getting any of the benefits.

Those fears have been fanned by finance ministry officials who continuously stress that the responsibility for the trade surplus lies with the private, not the public sector, and that the debt-ridden Japanese government has little room to manoeuvre.

Mr. Kashiwagi said Japanese industry would like the public sector — the finance ministry, the World Bank or other multilateral organisations — to bear a substantial portion of the risks involved.

"The private sector has learned from the experiences of the 1970s to be extremely wary of investing in or lending to the high-risk, heavily indebted countries," said the International Cooperation Study Group in a recent report. The group, a research institute headed by former foreign minis-

ter Saburo Okita, said the government must act to reduce private sector risk.

Japan's leading business organisation, the Keidanren, is concerned enough to be considering setting up a special committee to deal with the whole recycling question.

"If the government is asking us to be very generous and to take a loss, that is not fair," Mr. Hiroya Ichikawa, deputy director of international economic cooperation at Keidanren.

Mr. Ichikawa told Reuters that Keidanren recognised that more of Japan's money needed to be funnelled to the Third World but felt that government must do its part as well.

Mr. Kashiwagi was more blunt. He said the initiative lies with the government and it must come up with a definite proposal.

He also accused Third World nations of asking for too much. They want to pay the banks less for more risky loans.

Foreign ministry officials denied that the government was asking the private sector to bear the brunt of the risks of helping the Third World.

"It is not true to say that the banks have to bear the risk," said one official, who asked not to be identified. "We understand that nobody is eager to take on such risk."

He said the government had already extended hundreds of million of dollars to developing nations under its plan.

The extent of private sector participation will be decided on a case-by-case basis, he said, noting that the Export-Import Bank of Japan has the ability to guarantee repayment of commercial bank loans to the Third World.

China criticises low rents

PEKING (R) — Almost a third of all Chinese city dwellers live in sub-standard homes, an official newspaper said Monday, warning that a 38-year-old era of absurdly low rents was over.

"We must break the idea that housing is a form of welfare that shows the superiority of socialism and that rent should not be related to income. Housing is a form of commodity," the Communist Party People's Daily said in a front-page editorial.

China's serious housing shortage had not been solved despite spending 176 billion yuan (\$48 billion) on putting up more than 1.3 billion square metres of city housing since 1949, it said.

The paper said: "31.6 per cent of city residents live in housing that is bad or dangerous or have no home at all. Malpractices of every kind have also produced

housing problems that are man-made."

Most of China's 200 million city people live in apartments provided by their work-units, giving those in charge of housing allocation great potential for corruption and favouritism.

The daily said the main reason for the housing shortage was absurdly low rents, averaging 0.13 yuan (three cents) per square metre a month.

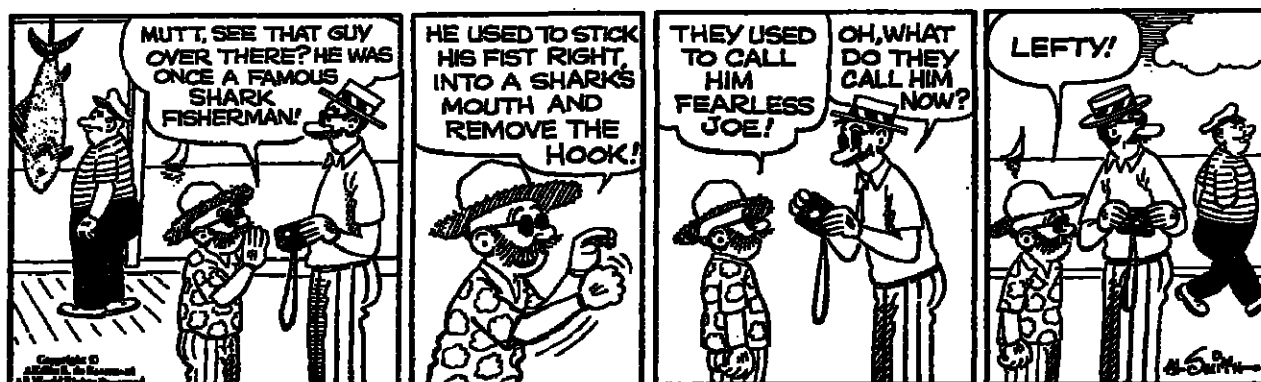
The income the state received from rents was not enough to cover repairs on the homes, let alone to provide capital to build new housing for those who needed it.

Very cheap rents also meant people spent money not on housing but on consumer goods, a demand not suitable to a developing country like China, the People's Daily added.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff

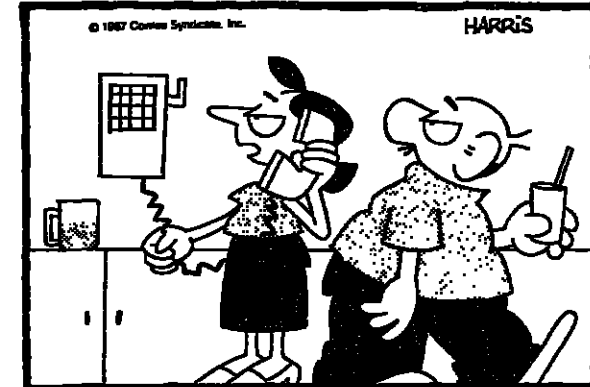


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: SHE WAS HIS (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AVAIL OWING SNAPPY TYPING
Answer: What was the confirmed bachelor's single thought? — STAYING THAT WAY

Philippines to adopt tougher gun control after murder of minister

Aquino, aides discuss measures to combat violence

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino and military advisers agreed to adopt tougher gun control and anti-terrorist measures to combat violence in Manila following the assassination of a cabinet member.

A presidential spokesman said a "crisis committee" chaired by Mrs. Aquino also discussed tighter security measures for cabinet members, but added that some officials had resisted the idea of travelling around with bodyguards.

Mrs. Aquino summoned the committee, formed earlier this year after a series of army coup threats against her, to an urgent session following Sunday night's ambush killing of Local Government Secretary Jaime Ferrer, a staunch anti-Communist.

Mr. Ferrer, killed in his car along with his driver by unknown gunmen, was the first cabinet minister in Philippine history to

be assassinated. His murder was the latest in a string of unsolved murders in the country.

There was no trace Monday of the killers and angry congressional leaders urged removal of military control over the police to check the rising violence in the capital.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos told reporters investigators were following up "many leads." An army spokesman said they had not come up with definite suspects.

"This (killing) triggers a more comprehensive anti-crime and anti-terrorist drive and stronger measures," said Brigadier-General Alexander Aguirre,

chief of the capital defence command.

Presidential Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno said Monday's meeting discussed possible angles to the killing and measures to protect cabinet members, including providing them with back-up security cars.

Officials refused to give details of the new security measures the government would adopt.

Present gun laws prohibit civilians from carrying guns outside their homes, except some professionals like doctors, prosecutors and cashiers.

Mrs. Aquino last week also imposed harsher penalties on rebels, raising from 12 years to life imprisonment the penalty for rebellion.

Investigators were eyeing several angles, that the assassination was carried out by leftist insurgents by rightwing dissidents

or by followers of disgruntled politicians.

Mr. Ferrer had dismissed a number of local executives for alleged inefficiency and disloyalty to Mrs. Aquino and said recently he was going to sack more.

Death squads of the Communist New People's Army — called "Sparrows" for their speed — have murdered 27 policemen in and around the capital this year.

Mr. Ferrer, 70, was an outspoken supporter of civilian vigilante groups that have sprung up around the country. He had been named as a potential target by NPA spokesmen.

But some officials suggested the murder might have been part of a rightwing plot.

President Corazon Aquino, who called the murder "senseless and barbaric," ordered a state funeral for Mr. Ferrer.

Managua prepares facilities for jets, minister says

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua has threatened to obtain sophisticated Soviet fighters if the United States goes ahead with plans to deploy similar aircraft in the region.

In a speech that represented an apparent shift in policy, Defence Minister Humberto Ortega said Sunday Nicaragua was preparing for possible acquisition of Soviet MiG-21s if Washington goes ahead with plans to deliver F-5 fighters to neighbouring Honduras.

Mr. Ortega said Nicaragua's acquisition of Soviet MiG-21s had been prevented up to now by technical problems including the lack of an adequate airstrip.

"Fundamentally, these (difficulties) already are being overcome," Mr. Ortega said after decorating a Sandinista soldier who shot down a rebel helicopter on July 22.

Previously Nicaragua, while defending its right to acquire jets if necessary for the defence of its left-wing Sandinista revolution, has denied it was considering doing so.

The United States, which arms rebels fighting for the overthrow of Nicaragua's Sandinista government, has indicated it would not tolerate the presence of Soviet-supplied MiG-21s in Nicaragua.

Mr. Ortega noted Washington had warned it might carry out "surgical strikes" were the jets to be delivered.

But he said Nicaragua's acquisition of jets, which he described as a purely defensive measure, would be made more probable and would be justified by Washington's proposed delivery of F-5s.

He said if Washington imposed a "belligerent policy" by delivering F-5s to Honduras, Nicaragua would "hasten" efforts to acquire jets from unspecified foreign countries.

His comments followed an article late last month in the New York Times quoting Pentagon officials in Washington as saying the Punta Huete Air Base outside Managua appeared to be in the final stages of completion.

The officials said Nicaragua could be considering the introduction of new Soviet air equipment.

Mr. Ortega's comments coincided with an upsurge in the war here stemming from a \$100-million U.S. aid package for the rebels, known as contras.

Military experts say jets would allow Nicaragua to intercept contra supply flights from neighbouring countries.

Kaunda vows to fight if raided by S. Africa

LUSAKA (R) — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has said he takes a recent threat by South African Defence Minister Magnus Malan to attack his country "very seriously."

Speaking in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Kaunda said Mr. Malan's threat of reprisals against Zambia and Mozambique following last week's car bomb explosion in Johannesburg was "a provocation of the worst order."

Mr. Kaunda said although the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement fighting white-ruled South Africa had its administrative headquarters in Zambia, the black nationalist group had no training camps in Zambia.

"We have ANC offices here as well as their leaders but we have no training camps here, none at all," he said.

Last April, South African commandos raided the southern Zambian town of Livingstone and

killed four people, following and earlier warning by Mr. Malan that his forces were prepared to raid Zambia to counter what he termed "terrorist activity" against South Africa.

Mr. Kaunda, who is chairman of the fronted states and was last week elected chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, said Zambia would defend itself if attacked.

"Let them go ahead, we will defend ourselves. But I call upon the international community to take note of this," he said.

Mr. Kaunda said that no matter how much the white majority government in Pretoria attacked neighbouring black states, it would not solve the problem of unrest inside South Africa, where he said South Africans were doing the fighting.

"There is no way in which the South Africans can expect me to do their dirty job for them," Mr. Kaunda said.

Lange warns Soviets to stop killing seals in Antarctica

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Prime Minister David Lange warned the Soviet Union on Monday he will close his country's ports to Soviet ships if they keep killing seals in Antarctica.

Mr. Lange said he had warned the Soviet Union twice this year of retaliatory action if it persists with the killings in an area of the frozen continent that is also claimed by Australia and France.

Mr. Lange, speaking after a cabinet meeting, was replying to newspaper reports that quoted the Operation Greenpeace environmental group as saying the Soviet Union killed nearly 3,000 Antarctic seals last summer.

Mr. Lange said protests were made to the Soviet embassy on March 3 and July 9.

"Those representations were strong and those representations, on my instruction, told the Soviet

Union that if further sealing expeditions were conducted, then New Zealand ports would be closed as a means of access to the Antarctic."

Mr. Lange added that it appeared that the Soviet claim that the sealing is for scientific purposes "is certainly a tenable argument and there appears to be no commercial exploitation," but said he still believed too many seals were being taken.

New Zealand has land claims to about one-eighth of Antarctica.

Soviet embassy spokesman Vladimir Ivanov commented there had been full consultation with the New Zealand government over the killings and that no international agreements protecting seals had been breached. He did not elaborate.

Silent screen star Pola Negri dies of pneumonia

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (R) — Silent screen star Pola Negri, whose career ranged from a 1917 German two-reeler to a Walt Disney movie made in 1964, has died of pneumonia in this Texas city. She was believed to be 88.

Polish-born Negri, whose tempestuous off-screen life included romances with Charlie Chaplin and Rudolph Valentino, had lived quietly in San Antonio for nearly 30 years.

Negri, who said she was born on December 31, 1899, though others put it two or three years earlier, died on Saturday in a San Antonio hospital. She had been in failing health for several weeks.

"She was always quite vain about her looks even at her decrepit old age. If I was late, she could make me wait for 20 minutes while she put her fake eyelashes on," said her friend Gilbert Denman.

Hollywood lore has it that when Valentino died in New York in 1926 Negri's name was on his lips. She took his body back to California by train, stopping at dozens of stations along the way so that hysterical Valentino worshippers could pay him tribute.

"He was the great love of her life," Denman said.

In Negri's autobiography, *Memoirs of Star*, published in 1970, she said of Valentino: "I regret that I met him so late. We had only one year of happiness."

Her films included: *The Red Peacock*, *Bella Donna*, *Passion*, *A Woman from Moscow*.

She married Polish Count Eugene Dmoski in 1919 and they were divorced a year later. In 1927 she wed Russian Prince Serge Mdivani. He was killed in a Florida polo game in 1936.

Negri, who always wore black and jet black hair, leaves no survivors.

U.S. agrees to consider humanitarian aid to Hanoi

HANOI (R) — The United States agreed Monday to take up "urgent" humanitarian concerns of Vietnam in return for Hanoi's help in speeding the tracing of 1,776 Americans missing in action (MIA) from the Vietnam war.

The agreement was reached at the end of three days of talks between U.S. presidential envoy John Vessey and Nguyen Co Thach, Vietnam's foreign minister and one of its senior deputy prime ministers.

A terse joint statement said Washington and Hanoi had agreed on specific measures "to accelerate progress toward accounting for Americans missing in Vietnam and to address certain urgent concerns of Vietnam."

Experts from both countries would hold two meetings in the near future, it added, one to discuss next steps to satisfy American demands for information about its missing and another to discuss urgent Vietnamese humanitarian concerns.

The statement called the talks candid, detailed and constructive, but neither side would discuss their substance.

Mr. Vessey seemed upbeat at the end of the last round of talks with Mr. Thach, telling reporters he felt something had been achieved, but declining to say what.

Although the statement said normalisation of relations and economic aid were not discussed, Washington for the first time

agreed to discuss relief of humanitarian concerns that Hanoi links to the war — understood to mean some form of aid.

One diplomat said in Hanoi the United States might be considering aid in the form of artificial limbs or care for war victims.

Vietnamese officials said earlier that their war-related humanitarian issues included orphans, invalids and victims of chemicals or fire.

Soon after his election in 1980, Mr. Reagan made an accounting of the missing Americans a top national priority but there has been little progress to show for it. Vietnam has returned the remains of only 150 MIAs since 1974.

The Reagan administration has been criticised for the lack of progress on MIAs. In June, Hanoi toughened its position, saying, in effect, that no aid for humanitarian causes it links to the war would mean no cooperation in the search for missing Americans.

Mr. Vessey was the first U.S. presidential envoy to visit Vietnam since Jimmy Carter sent labour union leader Leonard Woodcock in 1977 to discuss normalisation of relations and means to speed up progress on MIAs. Washington has ruled out diplomatic relations with Hanoi until it provides a fullest possible accounting of the missing men and withdraws its forces from Kampuchea.

S. Korea proposes high level talks with North

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Monday proposed the foreign ministers of the two Koreas meet to reopen talks about the divided peninsula but dismissed Northern proposals for arms cuts as "a typical propaganda piece."

Assistant Foreign Minister Park Soo-Gil told reporters the talks should focus on mutual recognition, United Nations membership, conclusion of a non-aggression pact and other matters.

Mr. Park, speaking at a news briefing, dismissed last month's North Korean proposal for arms reduction talks.

Mr. Park said the North's proposal was aimed at dividing South Korean public opinion, bringing about a withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Korea and adversely affecting the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Talks between North and South Korea were broken off last year when the North objected to joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises.

Since then South Korea has proposed resumption of talks on reuniting divided families, economic cooperation and political matters including a meeting between the two countries' presidents.

South Korea and the International Olympics Committee, fearing a boycott of the Seoul Olympics by Communist countries, have also been working to resolve a North Korean demand to co-host the games.

North Korea on July 23 suggested the two Koreas and the United States, which has 42,000 troops in South Korea, meet in Geneva to discuss mutual arms reductions.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

White tiger cub born in Indian circus

NEW DELHI (R) — A rare white tiger cub was born in a circus camping in a small town in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, the United News of India (UNI) said. The cub was one of a litter of three delivered by the tigress Kammo when the Asian circus stopped in Jabalpur, UNI said. White tigers are mutations of the Panthera Tigris tigris, an Indian species. No white tigers have been sighted in the wild and there are only about 300 of them in existence.

Chinese official expelled for indiscretion

HONG KONG (R) — An official in south China was sacked and expelled from the Communist Party for "whoring," a Canton newspaper said. Nanfang Ribao said Huang Huoguan, deputy mayor of Qingsui town in Guangdong province, was arrested in a hotel room with a prostitute during a police raid. "Huang, who was attending a county meeting at the time of his arrest, has been dismissed and expelled from the party for whoring," the newspaper said in its Sunday edition which reached here Monday.

Rally held to burn pornographic books

PEKING (AP) — Thousands of pornographic books, playing cards and calendars were burned at a public rally in southern China, a leading Chinese newspaper reported Monday. The event Friday at the May 1 Square in the city of Fuzhou in Fujian province was one of several such burnings reported in the Chinese press in the past month during a nationwide campaign against pornographic and illegal publication and recordings. Officials from the Fujian Public Security Bureau, the Fuzhou municipal government and other concerned organisations attended the rally. The China Legal News said, but did not estimate the size of the crowd. Authorities burned 1,843 pornographic books, 1,025 decks of pornographic playing cards, 309 pornographic calendars and 20,415 pornographic pictures, the paper said. They also erased 3,015 pornographic video and audio tapes, it said. Also destroyed were 4,516 illegally published books 678 illegally recorded videotapes and 2,000 audio tapes, the paper said. The burned and destroyed publications and recordings all were confiscated recently throughout the province, the paper said, but did not give any other details.

Campaigner protests condom commercial

LONDON (AP) — Britain's leading campaigner against television permissiveness lodged a formal complaint with the broadcasting authority about the screening of the first TV commercial for condoms. The Family Planning Association, however, welcomed the broadcast but regretted it had taken so long to achieve and that restrictive guidelines had been imposed on timing and content. The Independent Broadcasting Authority, which regulates independent broadcasters in Britain, lifted its ban on the advertising of specific birth control products as part of the government's campaign to reduce the spread of AIDS. The 40-second commercial was shown Saturday. It showed a young couple on a dark, wet street, walking along either side of a fence, newspapers with headlines about AIDS, cervical cancer, unwanted pregnancies and the age of romance fluttered past. The couple finally reached the end of the fence and embraced as a slogan was flashed on the screen saying: "You're safer together with Durex," the brand name of the condom. Mary Whitehouse, who for years has campaigned to keep television broadcasts family-oriented, said the condom commercial was misleading, giving the idea that using condoms was the only alternative to avoid these perils. There was no mention, she said, of the "moral alternative" abstaining from casual sex.

Conservatives win control of Chile opposition party

PUNTA DE TRALCA, Chile (R) — Chilean conservatives, who favour negotiations with the military rulers rather than protests, have won control of the main political opposition group.

Patricio Aylwin, 68, was chosen president of the Christian Democratic Party to succeed Gabriel Valdes, leader of the centrist group for the past five years, at a national congress held in this seaside town 100 kilometres west of Santiago.

His supporters, among them Andres Zaldivar, ex-president of the Christian Democrat International, were elected to the principal posts in the party's executive committee.

Mr. Aylwin, whose platform called for seeking dialogue with the military government of President Augusto Pinochet, took 55 per cent of the vote against 39 per cent for the more left-leaning

candidate Ricardo Hormazabal.

Under Mr. Aylwin, the Christian Democrats are expected to oppose calls for further street protests which had been a central feature of opposition to Gen. Pinochet's 14-year rule.

"The challenge is to defeat Pinochet, with the vote of the majority of Chileans and we the Christian Democrats have to be principal authors of this great task," Mr. Aylwin said.

The new leadership is expected to quickly register the party under the military's political parties law. The controversial law offers legality to non-Marxist political groups, but sets tough membership targets for their registration and limits on their operations.

The Hormazabal wing had favoured delaying a decision on registration, which Chilean leftist parties have rejected.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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LESSON FOR THE TEACHER

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 8 5 3 2
♥ A 9 7 6 5
♦ Void
♣ K 9 5

WEST
♠ 9 6
♥ Q 10 2
♦ K 10 8 5 4
♣ 10 6 4

EAST
♠ K 10 7 4
♥ J 8 4 3
♦ Q 9 7 6
♣ 7

SOUTH
♠ Q J
♥ K
♦ A J 3 2
♣ A Q J 8 3 2

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 NT Pass
7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

Bridge teacher-writer Eddie Kantar of Los Angeles has written many times about deceptive plays in his books and magazine articles. He has another one to write about in his next book—he was victimized by a clever falsecard at the recent Summer North American

Championships held in Toronto. After Kantar showed a strong hand with his reverse bid of two diamonds, his partner jumped in the fourth suit to show a good two-suiter. When his partner later supported clubs, Kantar launched into blackwood. North's response showed two aces and a void, so Kantar decided to bid a grand slam in clubs.

West led a diamond, and declarer had only 10 fast winners. He decided that the easy way to collect three more tricks would be to ruff three diamonds in dummy. Accordingly, he trumped the opening lead and then led a heart from the table. East produced the jack! Declarer took his king, ruffed another diamond and cashed the ace of hearts for a spade ruff. West overruffed with the ten. Ace of spades and a spade ruff put declarer in hand to lead his last diamond and ruff with dummy's king. Now all that remained was to get back to hand to draw trumps.

It seemed from the play that East was marked with the queen of hearts, so declarer opted for the "safe" spade ruff. West overruffed with the ten for down one.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Emswiler

MAXIM-IZING
by Wilson McBeath

ACROSS

1 London of Kansas
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18 Long fish
19 Which town
20 "Cinderella"
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Diagramless

19 x 19, By Roger Cohen

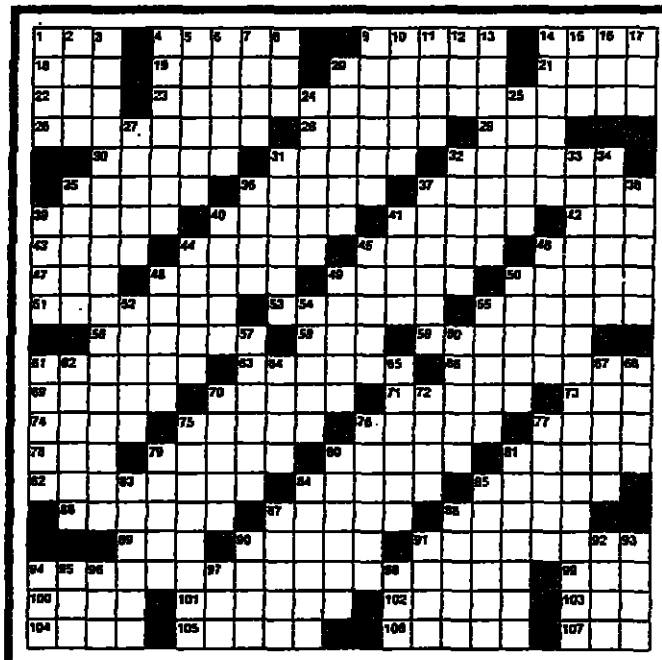
ACROSS

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FOR RELEASE August 2, 1987



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. In modern medical terms, intellectual friends are left-brained but not "harm-brained."
2. Meeting can brighten your day, but only if they are short and friendly, and come at a good time.
3. Why do so few good Americans call our buffalo by its right name — bison?
4. A top of eleven feet spurs on pole vaulters.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. NTO BITE YUCY LMCAKDF UOIJMN
XUCMBX ZIC LDDFZIJ LMDIAN EZKE DCY
CINUYZIJ, ZIGKOFZIJ DCGU TYUIM

—By Connie Rosenfeld

2. DAAW DAD KIEDDOY PEC SWUMPKIJ MAD
SPOT PO NAIJYTM ADOT DAD-MAD NUTC.

—By Lois H. Jones